

# EDITORIAL

## Happy Anniversary, IFLA!

Ross Shimmon

The Editor of *IFLA Journal*, in discussing the content of this special issue celebrating IFLA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, prompted me to read about the celebrations that took place 25 years ago to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I found that Margreet Wijnstroom, then IFLA's Secretary General, felt confident enough to state in her progress report, presented during the annual conference held in Brussels in 1977, on IFLA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the following terms:

In spite of its age no signs of passivity and no acceptance of the status quo may be perceived. Quite the contrary! The international community as united in IFLA has never before been so engaged in intensifying existing cooperative programmes and in launching exciting new plans.<sup>1</sup>

Among the many developments she recorded was the adoption of new Statutes (does that sound familiar?). The newly created Professional Board had 'taken its duties seriously' and set up eight Divisions (which still exist today) and, within them, 28 Sections. Interestingly, the newly created Professional Committee, successor to the Professional Board under the new (2000) Statutes has just decided to create nine new Sections to add to the current 36.

Membership numbers are always a preoccupation for organizations like IFLA, whose main financial support and intellectual input derives from its members. IFLA in 1977 was certainly no exception to this rule. Wijnstroom was also able to report a spectacular increase in membership of 25 percent over the previous year. The overall total was 806, from 102 countries, including 56 recruits to the new category of Personal Affiliates. This compares with 1783 today from 154 coun-

tries, including 415 Personal Affiliates.

It had been decided to mark the fiftieth birthday of IFLA during the annual conference held in Brussels by bestowing the IFLA medal on a number of notable figures. These included Mr. Amadou M'Bow, then the Director-General of UNESCO. A day earlier, Herman Liebaers, IFLA's President from 1969 to 1974, but by then Grand Maréchal de la Cour de Belgique, had presented, on behalf of King Baudouin, royal orders to ten librarians, including Preben Kirkegaard, then IFLA President, Gunther Pflug, Joseph Soosai and Margreet Wijnstroom. Liebaers said that he had 'begged the king to grant me the privilege to hand over myself, on his behalf, the decorations, thus repaying a little of my debt to IFLA.'<sup>2</sup> He did so by saying to each one of the recipients in his own language: 'It pleased the King to appoint you Officer of the Order of the Crown and I have the pleasure to offer you the jewel of this decoration and its certificate.'<sup>3</sup> However, even this gracious ceremony spawned an element of controversy. Two Canadians and two Britons were in line for the honours. But the British and Canadian governments 'according to their national rules, could not give their agreement'.<sup>4</sup> So Dorothy Anderson, Harry Campbell, Peter Havard-Williams and Maurice Line missed out.

Inevitably it sounds like another age. The organizational concerns expressed during the business meetings at the Brussels Conference are familiar, for example, the level of membership fees, the difficulties in recruiting members in developing countries and means of dealing with members unable to pay their fees. Some of the issues raised in the professional programme, as reflected in papers such as 'Statistics in library planning', 'Mobility of employment', 'New dimensions in

curriculum development' would scarcely raise an eyebrow today. But – apart from machine-readable cataloguing – computers, the Internet and the World Wide Web, of course, are notable by their absence, as is the World Trade Organization and concerns relating to freedom of information. Many of the papers are concerned, not with the digital divide, but with the apparently unshakeable political divide between East and West.

I wonder how the reports of our doings in 2002 will seem in 2027? Will the rapporteur wish to quote the American poet, Gwendolyn Brooks once more?

Nothing can be left alone,  
and nothing shall sit still.  
What looks like stillness is  
retrogression ...<sup>5</sup>

Although the sentiment may be apt, I imagine its expression will be different.

Joachim Wieder's paper 'An Outline of IFLA's History' was published in 1977 in *IFLA's First Fifty Years; achievement and challenge in international librarianship*, edited by Willem Koops and Wieder himself. The volume has been long out of print. Harry Campbell has therefore usefully edited extracts from Wieder's paper for this issue under the title *IFLA's First Fifty Years; a reprise*. It outlines the beginnings of IFLA from 1926 to 1930 and the resolution passed at the (British) Library Association conference, held in Edinburgh in 1927, to establish an 'International Library Committee'. IFLA's development in the 1930s, during the Second World War and the subsequent reconstruction are covered. The period of fundamental reorganization and crisis caused by rapid growth culminating in the establishment of a headquarters secretariat based in The Hague in 1970 are explained, followed by the main events, meas-

ures and innovations which took place in the years leading up to IFLA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1977.

Harry Campbell has himself written a companion article for this issue, *IFLA: Library Universality in a Divided World*. He covers highlights in the development of IFLA from 1977–2002. During this period, the Federation's membership increased in both geographic coverage and in numbers and major new programme initiatives were undertaken to provide services to benefit members. At the same time IFLA attempted to take on the role as the world's leading non-governmental library and information association, despite severe financial restrictions. Two major reorganizations, in 1977 and 2000, are covered, together with the portfolio of 'core activities' which evolved in this period. However, Campbell argues that the worldwide gap between those nations with adequate library and information services and those without remains as stark

as when IFLA was first established in 1927.

Accompanying both these articles are many photographs of people influential in the Federation's 75-year history. We would like to express our gratitude to all those who helped track them down.

Bob Usherwood, in his article, *The Inspiration and the Facts: Library and Information Services in the United Kingdom*, examines on a cross-sector, thematic basis, topics common to all parts of Britain's library and information world. The impact of constitutional change and new government policies, particularly those associated with social inclusion and lifelong learning are analysed. Digitization and the recent revival of interest in reader development are considered, alongside the challenges facing the library and information workforce, and the increasing emphasis placed on assessment, accountability and best value. He also discusses mar-

keting strategies, new library buildings and education and research. Usherwood concludes in this paper, published to mark IFLA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, that there has been a renaissance in British librarianship in the past few years, and that the profession there is well placed to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Let us hope that his optimism is borne out, not only in the UK, but also in the rest of IFLA's worldwide family.

### References

1. IFLA. *IFLA Annual 1977: Proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting, Brussels, 1977 Annual Reports*. München: K G Saur, 1978. p.52.
2. Ibid. p.32.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid. p.70

# IFLA's First Fifty Years: a reprise

Extracts from 'An Outline of IFLA's History', by Joachim Wieder, selected and edited by Harry Campbell.



**Joachim Wieder**

Joachim Wieder was Director of the Library of the Technological University of Munich, Germany, until his retirement in 1977. He was Secretary of IFLA from 1958 to 1963, and Vice-President of IFLA from 1967 to 1973. Together with W.R.H. Koops, he edited the commemorative volume *IFLA's First Fifty Years: achievement and challenge in international librarianship*, published on the occasion of IFLA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1977, and contributed the first chapter in that volume, 'An Outline of IFLA's History', from which these extracts are taken. Dr. Wieder died in 1991.



**Harry Campbell**

Harry Campbell joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1946 in New York, moving to the Libraries Division of UNESCO, Paris in 1948, where he organized the UNESCO/Library of Congress Survey of National and International Bibliographical Services and was responsible for the UNESCO Clearing House for Libraries. He attended IFLA's Rome Conference in 1951 and worked with both IFLA and FID in organizing the Brussels 1955 World Congress of Libraries. In 1956 he was appointed Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library, Toronto, Canada and retired in 1981. From 1971 to 1977 he was active in the development of IFLA's Regional Activities programme and made frequent visits to INTAMEL and IFLA meetings. He was elected to the Executive Board of IFLA in 1973, and was First Vice President from 1974–1979. He was made an Honorary Fellow of IFLA in 1979. He was President of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations from 1984 to 1986 and served as a library consultant in China and other countries from 1981–1996. In 2002 he served as President of ExLibris Association, Toronto, which is active in the furthering of library history in Canada.

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## The Beginnings of IFLA (1926–1930)

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The actual origins of IFLA are best considered and interpreted in the light of the reviving supra-national tendencies towards union, characteristic of the post-war period of the twenties. These amalgamating trends were strongly affected by the consequences of the extensive damages wrought by World War I, not only in intellectual and cultural domains but in the fields of economics, technology and politics as well. Then there was the radiance of a youthful League of Nations that inspired great hopes and strengthened to an extraordinary extent the awareness among individual States of their obligation to promote cooperation and understanding across their national frontiers. The League of Nations' Commission for Intellectual Cooperation had been established in Geneva, but had its executive Secretariat in Paris: the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation (IIIC), created in 1925 and of which the League of Nations' Library Conference formed a part. Librarians now sought to join in the general movement towards worldwide cooperation by means of a permanent international professional organization in an effort to ensure maximum effectiveness of their manifold activities and their weight in cultural policy.

Not without reason Gabriel Henriot has been called the spiritual father of IFLA. He was at that time President of the Association des bibliothécaires français and professor at the American Library School in Paris. At the International Congress of Librarians and Booklovers held at Prague in 1926, he recommended – on behalf of his French colleagues – the creation of a standing international library committee, to be elected by individual national organizations.

A small working group in which, apart from Henriot, there were representatives from Czechoslovakia, England, Germany and Sweden, drafted the proposal in greater detail, and also a nine-point Resolution, which was adopted by the Congress as a 'Provisorium'. The Standing International Library Committee was to consist of delegates nominated by national associations. It was to decide on place and time of official international congresses, and be domiciled at IIC Headquarters. The Resolution's last point stressed the importance of a sound financial basis, to be constructed with the help of contributions from individual member associations.

Henriot's conception, strongly French in orientation and reflecting the influence on IFLA of the intellectual life of Paris in those days, was submitted in Prague to a truly international forum. Among the nearly 700 participants were to be found representatives of 88 organizations from 28 countries. The Slavic element, constituted by Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Russians and Yugoslavs, dominated. Apart from the USA, some countries outside Europe, such as Brazil, Egypt, Palestine and Turkey, had also sent delegates. There were, moreover, representatives from other professions: bibliophiles, booksellers and publishers.<sup>1</sup>

In the meantime, the French organizers had changed their views, as was explained in a written recommendation sent by Henriot, who had been asked to sound out, as general delegate of the Prague working group, the possibilities of attaching the future federation to the League of Nations' Paris Institute. He now distanced himself from the original idea of housing the central secretariat in the IIC's crowded premises in the Palais Royal and proposed those of the American Library Center in Paris instead.<sup>2</sup> This change of mind was probably caused by Henriot's misgivings concerning the independence of the new international professional organization, and his hope of obtaining more useful arrangements by means of closer links with the American Library

Association (ALA), which might perhaps lead to organizational, professional and financial support. But he clung to the idea of a permanent seat in Paris. The ALA was, at any rate, effectively drawn into the preparatory work, as became apparent during the Edinburgh Conference of 1927.

### *The Resolution to establish an International Library Committee*

It was there, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the (British) Library Association, that IFLA was established – on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1927. The final resolution adopted at the closing session of the Congress was the Federation's 'Magna Carta' of foundation.<sup>3</sup> Signed by the authorized delegates from fifteen countries, it was the result of several days' deliberations of a seven member working group. Its Chairman, the Swedish Riksbibliotekar Isak Collijn, was elected first President. From some delegates' reports of the time it may be gathered that two outstanding personalities had distinguished themselves by their exceptional tact and skilful negotiating: Hugo Andres Krüss, Director General of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, and Carl H. Milam, the ALA Secretary (Chicago), to whom the IFLA Statutes of 1929 are due.<sup>4</sup>

Initially, the Edinburgh Resolution was regarded as a basis for further consultations. Entering into force upon ratification by the various member organizations, its text would eventually become the basis for the Committee's definitive Statutes.

The first three general international meetings marked the main stages of this process of consolidation. As proposed by the President, the establishment of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was officially declared in Rome (1928). At the same session Marcel Godet (Berne) presented some suggestions of great importance for the subject content of international conferences. Only questions of a truly international character, related to international problems or problems of general

interest, and of concern to a number of countries, should be taken up. A principal theme was to ensure the meeting's unity of programme and substance. Although these guidelines were adopted at the time, and would have helped to relieve the meetings of superfluous, mixed-up and incoherent discussion of unrelated topics, they were unfortunately not always followed. Confused and chaotic debates tended to decrease the value of the professional sessions. To a certain extent this was also true of the first World Congress of Librarianship and Bibliography which took place under IFLA auspices in Rome (1929), with meetings in Florence and Venice.<sup>5</sup>

At the Rome general session the International Library and Bibliographical Committee received its official name, and, with the appointment of General Secretary T.P. Sevensma [Director of the League of Nations Library – *Ed.*], its permanent seat at Geneva, in the League of Nations Library. Sevensma's close collaborator, A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, was co-opted to the Executive Committee as Assistant Secretary. In the course of more than 30 years he was to render outstanding services to IFLA, and, together with Sevensma, he guaranteed at the same time an efficient continuous relationship with the Geneva institution, and the material and idealistic possibilities it had to offer. The Statutes prepared by Milam, and already propounded and adopted at the 1929 World Congress, came into force by a decision of the Stockholm Session in 1930, and IFLA was finally constituted as a world union of national library associations, also open to related organizations or central library institutions in countries where no library associations were in existence.

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### **IFLA's Development in the 1930s**

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The decade preceding World War II saw the consolidation of the inner structure of the International Li-



Figure 1. Isak Collijn, IFLA's first President, 1927-1931.



Figure 2. William Warner Bishop, President, 1931-1936.

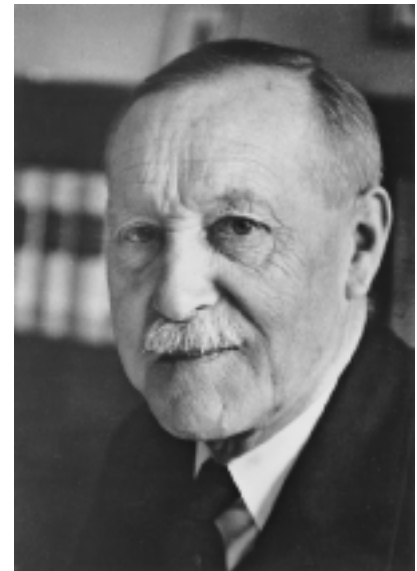


Figure 3. Marcel Godet, President, 1936-1947.

brary Federation, and a continuing expansion of its sphere of influence due to its growing membership and significantly increased authority in the area of cultural policy. In 1930 IFLA had 24 national member associations in 20 countries, in 1935 there were 34 from 25 countries, while in 1939 their number had reached 41 in 31 States, and included two international groupings. Apart from the USA, there were several library associations from outside Europe, such as China, India, Japan, Mexico and the Philippines, since 1936 also Egypt and Palestine. But in its overall activities IFLA had not as yet attained true universality. Its organizational and financial possibilities remained limited in scope, and the overseas members – once again with the notable exception of the USA – could but maintain incidental contacts with the parent body. When China and India invited IFLA with insistence to hold the 1936 annual session in Asia it was obliged to disappoint them, having to decline the invitation owing to financial strictures.<sup>6</sup>

In accordance with the Statutes, but also taking into account the traditional and priority needs of the period, the organization of quinquennial world congresses was an important feature of IFLA's work.

#### *IFLA's first Presidents and its Secretary General*

The Presidents largely determined the broad lines of library policy and the focus of international library cooperation. Their presidential addresses contained valuable pronouncements on programme matters, and taken together, these speeches constituted authoritative sources of IFLA's history – and this remained the case during all phases of IFLA's post World War II development as well.

The first President, Isak G.A. Collijn (1927-1931), Director of the Royal Library in Stockholm, was a distinguished scholar, primarily an incubulist and medievalist of international fame, who combined a wide culture with exceptional linguistic accomplishments. Fluent in eight languages, he furnished on occasion astonishing proof of the latter.

The second President, William Warner Bishop, Library Director, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1931-1936) did not only embody the best American library traditions, but was also an excellent authority on European librarianship, and its specific needs and problems. This combination showed itself extremely fruitful for international cooperation. Bishop, who was also a learned bibliophile, held respon-

sible offices in the USA as a library consultant.

The opening addresses of the third President, Marcel Godet (1936-1947) were particularly memorable. He was the Director of the Swiss National Library in Berne and attached to IFLA since 1928. An excellent organizer with practical sense, he was at the same time a highly cultivated man, with a wide range of interests, charming and full of Gallic wit, radiating a warm humanity and an unbending idealism. From his neutral country he did his utmost to keep the International Federation together during the Second World War.

His inspiring, delicately worded opening addresses, delivered in fine style, were usually devoted to a main theme. In Paris (1937) he spoke of the book crisis and the basically indestructible power of the book in a period increasingly dominated by emerging mass media like radio and film. "On peut croire que, de toutes façons, en dépit des noires prophéties, bibliothèques et bibliothécaires ont encore devant eux, et pour longtemps, une tâche et des possibilités immenses".<sup>7</sup> Repeatedly – as in Warsaw (1936) and Brussels (1938) – he concerned himself with the relationship of librarians to documentation. This was a complex question that excited strong



Figure 4. T.P. Sevensma, Secretary-General, 1929–1958.

feelings at the time, for the strained relations between the two worlds of essential activities which had too long remained unsolved only began to improve after the great Congress of Documentalists in Copenhagen (1935) and to move towards useful cooperation.

In his impressive and grave opening address at the last pre-war Session in The Hague (1939), Godet summarized all the bleak apprehensions to which he had given voice on earlier occasions in face of the threats to peace and international intellectual cooperation. His analysis of the unbridgeable contrast between opposing politico-philosophical systems was mainly concerned with National-Socialist Germany and the fateful conflict between State and individual, nation and mankind, totalitarian regimes and democratic institutions. Pointing to the corruption of all library tasks which ought to be undertaken in the service of freedom and human decency, Godet raised the question of the purpose and possibility of any further cooperation, pointing to the love of the book shared by all, to IFLA's achievements and to the activities of its Sections and Committees that had proven their capability to surmount all barriers.

Side by side with the marked personalities of the IFLA Presidents,

the Secretary-General, T. P. Sevensma, played a decisive role. A Dutchman of encyclopaedic culture, he was open to the world, temperamental and very active, gifted with a winning humanity and amiability. A skilled and successful negotiator with a dynamic personality, he was always out for new contacts. IFLA was fortunate indeed to benefit from the unpaid exertions of such an outstanding executive officer. Seen in the light of history, he appears the very soul of the young Federation, and at the same time as the embodiment of the enthusiasm which in the early days characterized many champions of international cooperation. The annual reports he presented at the Sessions of the International Library Committee show how much IFLA's history depended on his personal initiative and activity. In 1938 he left the League of Nations Library which he had made a unique documentation centre for international studies, and returned to Holland to take up the direction of the Library of Leyden University, while remaining Secretary General of IFLA.<sup>8</sup>

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### World War II and the Subsequent Period of Reconstruction (1939–1951)

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Understandably, the political and military upheavals caused by the Second World War almost completely paralysed IFLA's activities. International meetings could only be resumed in 1947. The fact that the Federation's seat and central office was located in neutral Switzerland (with Secretary Breycha-Vauthier at the League of Nations Library in Geneva and President Godet in Berne) allowed for the circulation of information by correspondence and the maintenance of certain contacts which made possible various interventions and relief actions. Thus IFLA took part through Breycha-Vauthier's membership of the Advisory Committee on Literature for Prisoners of War and Internees in the distribution of large numbers of books to various

camps. This beneficial action was directed by the Red Cross, and was carried on with the cooperation of several international organizations, such as the Young Men's Christian Association. In 1940 the Geneva Secretariat published Vol. 11 of the *Actes* of the International Library Committee, containing the proceedings of the last pre-war session and reports of twenty member associations and eight committees. This documentation was to prove a valuable tool when the time came to restore IFLA's interrupted traditions.

The first post-war Session took place at Oslo in 1947. Its organization was partly made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, which had also made available a sum of USD 9000 for the resumption of IFLA's work. The Conference was attended by 52 delegates from eighteen countries. In accordance with a sound tradition, FID (International Federation for Documentation) and – for the first time – UNESCO (recently established as successor to the League of Nations' International Commission for Intellectual Cooperation) were also represented.

In 1947 Godet was finally able to hand over the presidency to Munthe. For political and health reasons he would have preferred to have been allowed to have relinquished his position in 1939, but due to the difficult situation of that moment, when the German side – obliged to represent officially the National Socialist regime – was laying a claim on the leadership of IFLA, Godet had been persuaded to continue in office, much to the relief of the Norwegian President designate.

One of the fundamentally important events at the Oslo Session was the conclusion of a formal agreement between UNESCO and IFLA concerning their systematic cooperation.<sup>9</sup> The details of this document defined the mutual acceptance of principles, major tasks and objectives of both international bodies, mutual consultation, regular representation at plenary sessions and general conferences, exchange of information, as well as



Figure 5. Wilhelm Munthe,  
President, 1947–1951.

the promotion of IFLA projects in the interest of UNESCO's general programme. In particular, IFLA was officially recognized as the principal non-governmental organ for UNESCO's cooperation with professional library associations. At the same time UNESCO promised financial support for the execution of IFLA's programme and more particularly, for specific assignments, meetings, secretariat help or documentary purposes. As from 1949 IFLA received an annual UNESCO subvention of approximately CHF (Swiss Francs) 1500. The regular UNESCO representative and reporter at IFLA sessions of the time was E. J. Carter, head of the UNESCO Libraries Division, who showed perfect understanding in promoting IFLA's work in word and deed. He regarded "libraries as active and living demonstrations of UNESCO's basic ideas and practice".<sup>10</sup>

The fourth President, W. Munthe (1947–1951) was appointed as Director of the Royal University Library, Oslo in 1922 and remained in that position until 1954. Munthe belonged to the old IFLA guard and had become familiar with its needs, problems and responsibilities. With his personality bearing the imprint of Anglo-Saxon and German culture, he was known to be an outstanding expert on American librarianship and the author of

a much-appreciated book: *American Librarianship from a European Angle*. But his personal qualities of goodness and simplicity, his helpfulness and convincing humanity were at that time even more greatly appreciated than his professional competence. Such a representative and ambassador of goodwill who could not be overlooked (also because of his tallness) had certainly found his rightful place at this time of difficult new beginnings.

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### Fundamental Reorganization and Crisis of Growth (1952–1969)

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Various explanations can be found for the quick loss of validity of the traditional concepts, structures and working methods that predominated in IFLA during the immediate post-war period. They had become too narrow and patriarchal, and in the early 1950s their inadequacy and the urgent need for reform made themselves increasingly felt. Only some aspects of the spectacular change are described here: the rapid acceleration of the process of transformation in all economic, social, political and cultural fields, caused by the gigantic development of technology; the continents drawing nearer to each other in a worldwide communication constellation, with its ensuing international data and information needs; the greatly increased importance of libraries and documentation centres in an era in which almost 90 percent of all the scholars brought forth in the history of mankind were flourishing and active, and in which the democratization of knowledge had the highest claim to education and culture; the challenges connected not only with the possibilities opened up by automation and electronic developments, but with the new audio-visual media and the information technology.

Other facts of great consequence were added to these after 1950, and confronted international library cooperation with new tasks and problems: Europe's retreat from its central position in the



Figure 6. Pierre Bourgeois,  
President, 1951–1958.

world, the end of the era of imperialist colonialism, the Socialist countries' growing participation in cultural cooperation, and lastly, the stronger self-assurance of the Third World and the demands based on its needs.

#### *The era of Pierre Bourgeois (1951–1958)*

Pierre Bourgeois was the second Director of the Schweizerische Landesbibliothek (Berne) to become President of IFLA. No more suitable personality could have been found in that particular stage of IFLA's development to adapt the Federation to the conditions of modern times and to undertake with foresight and energy the work of reorganization. Bourgeois was made altogether of different clay than former IFLA presidents. A natural scientist by origins, open to the realm of technology, a federalist by conviction and an efficient organizer, easy to contact, although as bachelor at the same time personally aloof and cool, a good public speaker and linguist, he knew how to carry through his conceptions in a convincing way and to instigate initiatives in accordance with his mind. His close contacts with documentalists, with whom IFLA had up to then merely maintained diplomatic contacts, were at the time regarded as a favourable sign of better cooperation in the future.

The Brussels World Congress of 1955

That useful cooperation was clearly shown by the most spectacular event to occur during the Bourgeois presidency: the Third International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres, organized in Brussels in 1955, after two years of preparation. Important financial support had been made available by UNESCO for this purpose, as well as support for its policy of international library unification and coordination. It had moved to bring in the AIBM (Association Internationale des Bibliothèques Musicales) as a companion to IFLA and FID. Thus there were three large parallel conferences in the framework of a monster congress for librarians, documentalists and music librarians. Common sessions were held on the theme: The tasks and responsibilities of libraries and documentation centres in modern life. In the substantial first volume of the Congress Proceedings and the concise introductory reports can be found the names of most of the prominent librarians who distinguished themselves in IFLA's history at the time.<sup>11</sup>

At the invitation of the President, the meritorious pioneer of Indian librarianship, Professor Ranganathan (Delhi), in 1954, wrote an article from the angle of a developing country: 'IFLA – what it should be and do' which contained complaints and expostulations, programme demands and exhortations. He mainly criticized the fact that IFLA still had not grown into a truly international organization, that the West European, North American element was still predominant. That still too strong remnants of pre-war imperialism lingered on, particularly among the feudal old guard, who did not allow the broader-minded younger generation to come into its own. Also, that developing countries were forced to accept elements of Western culture and that the Third World gathering strength did not receive sufficient encouragement and opportunities. Ranganathan demanded a larger representation

and cooperation for the developing countries and the neglected regions of the modern world in IFLA committees and other groups, particularly on the Executive Board, and put forward the wish to see its seats distributed proportionally: Western Europe and North America 40 percent, Asia 20 percent, Eastern Europe, Africa; Latin America and Australia 10 percent each.<sup>12</sup>

The financial situation had been improved in various ways, thanks to the helpful patronage of UNESCO, which had furnished, apart from the regular subventions, additional grants for publications and concluded contracts for specific projects. In 1957 these grants amounted to approximately CHF 7,500. President Bourgeois was of the opinion that progress was too slow. At the Madrid session (1958) he happily announced that the American Council on Library Resources, of which Verner Clapp was the Director, and who was very much interested in worldwide library cooperation, had voted a subvention of USD 20,000 for the preparation of an international conference on the unification of cataloguing rules.<sup>13</sup> A Preliminary Conference was to be held in London in 1959, and an information bulletin was to be issued.

### *IFLA under the Presidency of Gustav Hofmann (1958–1963)*

In Madrid Gustav Hofmann (Munich), Director General of the Bayerischen Staatlichen Bibliotheken, was elected President as successor to Bourgeois. Hofmann was a successful and highly esteemed champion of German librarianship – then in the throes of renovation and confronted with common tasks of a supra-regional nature.

Almost all members of the Board had been replaced, and the Secretary General had retired at the same time as Bourgeois. Aged 79 years, Sevensma had devoted himself to IFLA through three decades. He was made Honorary President in appreciation of his outstanding merit.

The International Conference on Cataloguing Principles, Paris (1961)



Figure 7. Gustav Hofmann, President, 1958–1963.

was a memorable event, rich in consequences. Delegates from 53 countries and twelve international organizations as well as 104 observers from 20 countries attended. Convened by UNESCO, it was financially supported by the Council on Library Resources, which provided USD 95,000 in order to hold the meeting under IFLA auspices. An important agreement was reached, a notable forward step in the field of international unification of cataloguing principles and recommending further measures which were purposefully promoted in the following years by the IFLA competent Committee. The lasting success of the Paris Conference was largely due to the untiring efforts of its expert Executive Secretary A.H. Chaplin (London), who long continued to play a very important part in various IFLA Committees. His first official conference report appeared in 1962 in 25 editions and eleven languages; the final version was published in 1963.<sup>14</sup>

### *The establishment of the IFLA Central Secretariat*

The establishment of a permanent central Secretariat had become unavoidable as a result of the explosive growth of the Federation since the late 1950s. Its world-wide geographical expansion was bound up with a multiplication of all work of an organizational and administrative nature. A few indications may serve to illustrate this development.



In 1958 IFLA counted 64 member associations in 42 countries; in 1963 there were already 88 in over 50 countries in all continents but Australia. Particularly important was the affiliation of the Central Library Council of the Soviet Union in 1959, ushering in a new period of useful cooperation with Eastern Europe and the socialist countries, as well as the membership of several international organizations like the IALL (International Association of Law Libraries) and AIL (Association of International Libraries). The renewal of the Latin American Section and the growing number of member associations in developing countries clamouring for support were for IFLA a rousing call to face its responsibilities and duties towards the pressing need to carry out activities in countries outside Europe.

In 1963 came the appointment as Secretary General of Anthony Thompson (London). Author of the well-known *Vocabularium Bibliothecarii*, and having gained varied international experience, energetic and endowed with extraordinary linguistic skills, he combined singleness of purpose with an unselfish idealism.<sup>15</sup> It was a fortunate coincidence that IFLA, although still having an insecure financial basis, had found this loyal man who was prepared disinterestedly to reconcile himself initially with restricted working conditions and a very modest personal remuneration. For eight years he was to be involved with IFLA's fate, in an influential position.

#### *Long-term Programme and preparation of new Statutes*

Ever since President Hofmann, praising the example of FID's long-term policy, had – already at the Session in Lund and Malmö (1960) – called for a long-term programme of IFLA activities, this important project had figured on the agenda. In the end, upon consultations with various individual experts, a small working group was set up to finalize the project. It consisted of highly competent librarians of wide experience: Sir Frank



Figure 8. Anthony Thompson (R) receives the IFLA Scroll from Preben Kirkegaard at the Brussels Conference, 1977

Francis, F. G. B. Hutchings, H. Liebaers and L. Brummel. The latter had a decisive part in the substance as well as the form of the publication issued in 1963 in English and French under the title: *Libraries in the World*. This manifesto was an impressive evaluation and action programme, a beacon for the next decade of development.

To enable IFLA to master the multitude of pressing tasks on the widest possible basis, it had become necessary, once the central Secretariat had been set up, to provide the Federation with new Statutes as a guarantee for future stability and continuity. The revision largely prepared by Hofmann remained the basis of the final consultations and editing of the revised Statutes that came into force under his successor in 1964.

#### *IFLA's development during the Presidency of Sir Frank Francis and up till the Secretariat's removal to The Hague (1964–1970)*

The revised Statutes, finally officially adopted at the Rome Session (1964), were of lasting importance for the further dynamic development of IFLA, above all during the second half of the sixties. The most significant new provisions are men-

tioned here: Next to the full members with voting rights came associated members without the right to vote, to which belonged individual libraries, central bibliographic institutes and other institutions concerned with library matters. In addition to the old Executive Board, now to consist of the President, only four Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary General, there was created a Consultative Committee formed by the Executive Board and the chairmen and secretaries of all Sections and Committees together with one representative of the regional groups. The terms of office of the officers were limited to three years with the possibility of one re-election. The President and the Vice-Presidents should represent different geographical regions, library systems and types of library. A chairman and secretary should be elected for each Section and Committee. International congresses were foreseen from time to time only. The general assembly was renamed General Council.<sup>16</sup> The changes made in the Statutes aimed to make IFLA's structures more flexible to cope with its universal tasks, to improve the Board's executive power by restricting its size, and to promote the direct cooperation in international common tasks on a broad



Figure 9. M.I. Rudomino and Sir Frank Francis (President, 1963–1969) (Moscow, 1972).

basis by enlarging the Advisory Committee.

How did the President of that time cope with the seemingly unceasing growing crisis of IFLA and the multitude of the complicated urgent tasks and problems? Sir Frank Francis, Director of the British Museum and Principal Keeper of its Library, brought to his new office the wealth of experience gained in the course of a brilliant professional career and his leadership of IFLA benefited greatly from the valuable contacts he provided as well as from his undisputed authority. Combining high culture with a winning humanity, a talent for diplomatic negotiation and fine oratory, he possessed at the same time a realistic sense of the obtainable. All these qualities were of great value in that particular phase of IFLA's stormy development. He knew how to unite the new with the old, matters spiritual and material. Already familiar with IFLA activities through his long association with the National Libraries Section and the Cataloguing Committee, he had often represented the Federation's interests in UNESCO and at numerous international seminars and conferences.

His speech in The Hague (1966) pointed towards the future, and dwelt on the unheard of changes

facing the modern library community brought about by the new possibilities of automation which enabled the libraries to speed up information retrieval and bibliographic control in the interests of reader demands. Sir Frank praised in particular the cooperative project undertaken by the Library of Congress together with other countries and national bibliographies, and in the framework of this modern universal cooperation, the issue of centrally printed catalogue cards.

The acceptance and the implementation of this proposal for shared cataloguing on an international scale would result in a speedier bibliographical control of the materials flowing ever faster into our libraries, would reduce cataloguing costs and would release the energies of our cataloguing forces, which are at present engaged in duplicating each other's efforts a countless number of times in different libraries not only in all parts of the world, but in almost every country under the sun.<sup>17</sup>

The speech ended in an appeal for ever more active cooperation in order to make available modern electronic techniques for speedy scientific information and literature retrieval without, however, neglect-

ing the human and humanistic tasks that, arising from the noble traditions of the library profession, still formed its very core.

This was also the keynote of his message to the Toronto Session (1967) which – for reasons of health – he was unable to attend. Basing himself on the encyclic *Populorum progressio* in which the Pope had formulated some of the world problems connected with the universal thirst for knowledge and education, Sir Frank wrote that librarians should tirelessly apply their knowledge and expertise, to further the progress of mankind, in fulfilment of their spiritual and social mission and that IFLA had to shoulder its responsibilities in this sphere.

We must recognize the need for reorientation in our library thinking, work for the development of new concepts and techniques, and aim the efficient adaptation of all our expertise to the circumstances of the great world as it is.

For the first time the President touched upon IFLA's great task of cooperating in an International Year of Books and Libraries.<sup>18</sup>

During this period important improvements were effected in solving certain linguistic problems connected with the strongly increased attendance at annual conferences. Officially recognized as one of the congress languages at the Session in The Hague (1966), German was afforded the benefit of the simultaneous interpretation facilities available in plenary meetings. In Frankfurt (1968) a team of librarians worked successfully as amateur interpreters for the first time. It was Peter Havard-Williams', the future Vice-President's, particular merit to have organized and systematically encouraged this extraordinarily useful group to which experts from various Eastern and Western countries offered their outstanding linguistic gifts.

The Frankfurt Session deserves to be mentioned also because it was



Figure 10. Margreet Wijnstroom, Secretary-General, 1971-1987.



Figure 11. Herman Liebaers, President, 1969-1974.

on this occasion that IFLA's inner force and firmness of purpose were suddenly put to a test of such severity as had never occurred before. The Session risked being cut short by a menace of political and ideological nature, caused by the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, but the Federation was able to weather this crisis, although the next session, to be held in Moscow, had to be deferred.

*Changes of officers and structure. Financial situation and activities of the Secretariat until 1970*

In connection with IFLA's further development in the 1960s, the untiring and useful contribution of the Secretary General, Anthony Thompson, should also be mentioned. Without his discretion, disinterestedness and loyalty, the central Secretariat could not have existed. Content with an inadequate remuneration, he managed for six years to maintain at IFLA's disposal a suitable, rent-free office in his own home in Sevenoaks (Kent), 35 km from London, whereto the Secretariat had been removed in the autumn of 1963. In his financial report for 1969 the Treasurer drew attention to the Secretary General's economy and 'incredibly low' expenses.<sup>19</sup> Thompson's serv-

ice to the cause of international understanding and cooperation was in tune with his deepest philosophic convictions. To him it meant an ethical obligation. This basic attitude also manifested itself in the affectionate care he lavished on the contents and layout of *IFLA News*, the quarterly information bulletin he edited in English, French, Russian and - since 1969, and for some time - in Spanish versions.

Thompson's progress reports afforded insight in the hard work accomplished in the Secretariat. The *Actes du Conseil*, since 1969 appearing in a new form and renamed *IFLA Annual*, were also prepared by the Secretary General. He was responsible for the continuing flow of information within IFLA, and particularly for current contacts between the Secretariat, the Executive Board, the Sections and Committees as well as for the dispatch of various publications.

Numerous arguments were put forward during these years in favour of a new structure for IFLA and of augmenting and rationalization of its activities, primarily as regarded the Executive Board and the Consultative Committee, but also the working groups. These efforts resulted in two innovations

that not only brought relief to the Secretary General but were to prove of great importance for IFLA's future. They were announced by Sir Frank at the Copenhagen Session (1969) - the last he presided.<sup>20</sup> To reinforce the Secretariat, Miss Margreet Wijnstroom (The Hague), the extremely competent and capable General Secretary of the Netherlands Central Association of Public Libraries, was given the assignment to promote IFLA's external affairs, and at the same time to improve the Secretariat's relations with Sections and Committees.

She was to collaborate closely with the Consultative Committee, whose responsibilities concerning IFLA policy were enlarged. A 'Programme Development Group' was established of which Miss Wijnstroom would be secretary. Under the energetic leadership of Dr. C. Reedijk, Director of the Royal Library in The Hague, who was as deeply committed to the cause of international librarianship as his predecessor Brummel had been, the new group tackled its tasks: the preparation of a short term action programme with a list of priorities, and the structural reform of IFLA. Of primary concern were problems relating to IFLA's ultimate universality, based on the use of electronic



Figure 12. Preben Kirkegaard,  
President, 1974–1979.

technology and recognizing the need for really successful cooperation with developing countries and related world governmental and non-governmental organizations. This orientation, tuned to Sir Frank's ideas, was soon to receive additional vision and force from the newly elected President Herman Liebaers, Director of the Royal Library in Brussels and an energetic champion of international cooperation.

### Departure to New Horizons

The year 1970 was a year of transition, full of activities simultaneously undertaken from Sevenoaks and The Hague, under the sign of decisive new orientation, of preparations for the universal role which IFLA pursued energetically. The significant programme speech delivered by the President at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session in Moscow bore witness to this. About 750 participants from 40 countries formed a record attendance.<sup>21</sup> As host acted Mrs. Rudomino, the highly qualified Directress of the Moscow All-Union State Library for Foreign Literature. During her time of office as Vice-President she successfully contributed, thanks to her diplomacy and warm-heartedness, to bring about closer professional and personal contacts between the

Soviet library world and the West and to create a favourable atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Of course, Liebaers wished to have the Secretariat near himself. He would have preferred to see it located under the same roof as FID. When such an alliance of the two main non-governmental organizations in the library field could not be realized, it was decided to establish the IFLA office at least in the same city, early in 1971. For Thompson this was the occasion to resign, after 8 years of tireless, selfless striving; his loyalty to IFLA remained as strong as ever. M. Wijnstroom succeeded him as Secretary General.

Time was ripe for a thorough structural reform. An amazing number of events, measures and innovations occurred in the course of the seven years leading up to IFLA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They can be listed as follows: Reinforcement of the economic foundation and productive capacity by means of financial reorganization; complete revision of the existing statutes by the elaboration of new ones emphasizing a federative and regional structure in view of geographic expansion and professional assignments; start of effective international cooperation with Third World countries; more constructive cooperation with relevant international bodies in the fields of education, science and culture, documentation and standardization, but also with governmental or private foundations; elaboration of a new medium-term programme of activities, including the determination of priorities; effective use of all possibilities of modern technology for the benefit of common tasks on a global scale; comprehensive information and publishing activities; systematic campaign for the wider recognition of the cultural and social significance of libraries all over the world, of which IFLA's all-round cooperation in the UNESCO-sponsored International Book Year 1972 is a lasting token.<sup>22</sup>

The essential aspects of the various measures and innovations enu-

merated here were reflected in the activities and results of the last annual Sessions with their valuable pre-session seminars for librarians from developing countries, which, since 1971, had become an especially useful institution. The Conference of Moscow (1970), Liverpool (1971), Budapest (1972), Grenoble (1973), Washington (1974), Oslo (1975) and Lausanne (1976) represented indeed milestones of IFLA's latest development towards new horizons.<sup>25</sup>

When Herman Liebaers, after having taken over in his country the highly responsible office of 'Grand Maréchal de la Cour de Belgique', resigned from the presidency in Washington at the end of 1974, the Treasurer of the Federation, Preben Kirkegaard, Rector of Denmark's Royal Library School, was elected President. For long years familiar with IFLA's problems and needs and having already greatly deserved of its former evolution, he purposefully continued the innovation work of his predecessor to which he has devoted his abilities enriched by outstanding experiences in the interest of promoting library co-operation on a worldwide scale.

### Note

The above text comprises extracts from 'An Outline of IFLA's History' by Joachim Wieder, published in *IFLA's First Fifty Years: achievement and challenge in international librarianship*, Edited by Willem R.H. Koops and Joachim Wieder. München, Verlag Dokumentation, 1977. (IFLA Publications, 10). ISBN 3-7940-4430-4. (o.p.). The extracts have been selected and edited by Harry Campbell. The references in the original text have been renumbered to provide one consecutive sequence for the present paper. The photographs have been added for this edited version.

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  23. See the respective *IFLA Annuals* and the last IFLA progress reports since 1971/1972, most carefully edited by the Secretary General Margreet Wijnstroom and offering, in a concentrated form, comprehensive surveys of IFLA's actual evolution, various activities, offices, publications, and financial resources.

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# IFLA: Library Universality in a Divided World

**Harry C. Campbell**



Harry Campbell joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1946 in New York, moving to the Libraries Division of UNESCO, Paris in 1948, where he organized the UNESCO/Library of Congress Survey of National and International Bibliographical Services and was responsible for the UNESCO Clearing House for Libraries. He attended IFLA's Rome Conference in 1951 and worked with both IFLA and FID in organizing the Brussels 1955 World Congress of Libraries. In 1956 he was appointed Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library, Toronto, Canada and retired in 1981. From 1971 to 1977 he was active in the development of IFLA's Regional Activities programme and made frequent visits to INTAMEL and IFLA meetings. He was elected to the Executive Board of IFLA in 1973, and was First Vice President from 1974–1979. He was made an Honorary Fellow of IFLA in 1979. He was President of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations from 1984 to 1986 and served as a library consultant in China and other countries from 1981–1996. In 2002 he served as President of ExLibris Association, Toronto, which is active in the furthering of library history in Canada.

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## An International Library Organization in Constant Evolution

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The quarter century that elapsed after the World Congress of Libraries and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Council Meeting of IFLA in Brussels in 1977 was to see both a qualitative and a quantitative change in the scope and programme of IFLA. This might be summarized by a brief look at the changes which took place under the successive IFLA Presidents from 1977 to 2002.

Preben Kirkegaard, President from 1974 to 1979, who was a former Treasurer of IFLA and Director of the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark, spoke repeatedly of 'the new IFLA'. The President and the new Executive Board inherited a new structure of the organization following the passage of new Statutes and Rules of Procedure in Lausanne by the General Council meeting in 1976. The theme of that meeting had been IFLA's new mission and shape, and the decisions made there had transformed the structure and governance of IFLA, and had altered its name.

The new IFLA was no longer only a federation of national library associations – largely from North America and Europe – but was accepting individual libraries and information institutions worldwide as members, and was engaging in the management of professional projects across the globe. All members had voting rights in elections and meetings, but these rights had been carefully apportioned. In addition, individuals throughout the world could join as personal members (known as Personal Affiliates from 1976) but had no voting rights. Commercial sponsors from business and the information industry (known as Corporate Partners from 1999) were also admitted as members.



*Figure 1. Preben Kirkegaard, President 1974–1979.*

A further element of IFLA's newness in 1974 was the existence of two management groups, one the Executive Board which was responsible for policy and membership development, budget and finances, and the other the Professional Board, responsible to direct the planning and monitor the progress of IFLA's professional activities. The Executive Board was elected by delegates representing voting members present at the annual General Council meetings of the Federation. The Professional Board was made up of the Chairs of the Coordinating Boards of all the Divisions, along with a Professional Programme Coordinator.

A first test to the new organizational arrangements came as IFLA continued its work in implementing the recommendations of the International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts (IMCE) that had taken place in Copenhagen in 1969 following the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles held in Paris in 1961. A three year grant from the Council on Library Resources, Washington, DC in 1971 had provided funds for an IFLA Cataloguing Secretariat situated in London. In that year Herman Liebaers advanced the idea of Univer-

sal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and in 1974 the London office became the IFLA International Office for UBC.

An agreement was reached for the British Library to provide premises for the small staff of the IFLA UBC office under the management of Dorothy Anderson. They would draw on the professional support of the members of the new IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control. From the experience with this arrangement developed the management methods used to create future Core Programme units and Core Activities.<sup>1</sup> In establishing such Core Activities, the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL), a separate non-governmental body which had consultative status with IFLA, played a major role in securing cooperation between IFLA and the national libraries of the world.

During the 1970s there had been a stirring of interest in library associations in countries outside Europe and North America who were anxious to share in IFLA's information and library activities and to secure some of the benefits of membership in the international library community. From countries in the Pacific area various national library associations had joined; the Democratic Republic of Korea (1970), Singapore (1972), Indonesia and Malaysia (1973). There had been similar initiatives from African countries.

Difficult decisions concerning participation by various national library associations had to be made by the Executive Board at various times. In 1981 the People's Republic of China was admitted as a member, but this had required the membership of library associations of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to be suspended in 1976, although not the memberships of individual libraries. The South African Library Association was suspended as a member in 1972 but individual libraries in South Africa continued as Institutional members. Following an IFLA fact-finding mission in 1993, the Library and Informa-



Figure 2. Else Granheim, President 1979–1985.

tion Association of South Africa (LIASA) joined IFLA in 1997.

The elections at the Copenhagen Council meeting in 1979 resulted in the choice of IFLA's first woman president, Else Granheim of Norway (1979–1985). She was Director of the Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, Oslo. During the term of her presidency Else Granheim presided over IFLA conferences in the Pacific and in Africa. Those meetings took place in Manila in 1980 and Nairobi in 1984.

Also during her presidency a second Core Programme of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) with the IFLA International Lending (ILL) office as its focal point was inaugurated in 1982. It was based at the British Library's Document Supply Centre in Boston Spa, England with Maurice B. Line as Director. This, like the International UBC office, was strongly supported by the British Library.

A further Core Programme, Preservation and Conservation (PAC) was launched in 1986 with its focal point in Washington, DC. It moved to the Bibliothèque Nationale in France in 1992. A Core Programme under the title Transborder Dataflow was hosted by the National Library of Canada, Ottawa in 1986. In 1988 it became Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT).



Figure 3. Maurice B. Line first Director, UAP Programme

In 1986 an Advancement for Librarianship in the Third World programme had been initiated by the IFLA Executive Board following the Nairobi, Kenya Conference. In 1988 this was recognized as a fifth Core Programme and was managed by the Secretariat of IFLA from The Hague.

During the 1980s the theme of information services and their place in libraries was highlighted at various annual IFLA conferences. The theme of Universal Access to Publications and access to world-wide information had been chosen for the 1978 meeting in Strbske Pleso, in the Czech Republic and in 1985 in Chicago, and it was to be featured again in succeeding years. Hans-Peter Geh, Director of the Württembergische Stuttgart, German Federal Republic became President from 1985 to 1991.

In 1987 Margreet Wijnstroom, who had been appointed as Secretary-General in 1971, retired. She was succeeded by Paul Nauta, who served until 1992. In 1986 IFLA met again in the Pacific area for an annual meeting, when the Japan Library Association hosted the Conference in Tokyo. The Australian Library and Information Association, which had joined IFLA in 1937, welcomed the Conference to Sydney in 1988 with the theme 'Living Together: People, Libraries, Information'.





Figure 4. Three IFLA stalwarts enjoy a canal cruise at the Amsterdam Conference, 1998. L. to R.: Paul Nauta (Secretary-General 1987–1992; Hans-Peter Geh (President, 1985–1991); Herman Liebaers (President, 1969–1974).



Figure 5. Robert Wedgeworth, President, 1991–1997.

In 1977 there were 102 nations whose various national library associations were IFLA members. The total number of library association members was greater, since many countries with a long history of library development had several national associations. Voting in the annual Council meetings was organized with larger countries receiving blocs of votes which were in most cases allocated by one association in each country among the other association members in the country. The financial contribution of national library associations was calculated on the scale applied to national membership in UNESCO, with some limits on the upper amounts payable.

By 1990 the number of countries whose national library associations had become members of IFLA had increased to 132. Individual institutional members amounted to 941 and there were 178 Personal Affiliates. During the decade of the 1990s the Federation received new memberships from library associations in over 28 countries, and engaged in an active period of worldwide expansion.

IFLA established working relations with a variety of other bodies with similar interests, providing an op-

portunity for a regular exchange of information and views on issues of mutual concern. It has Formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). IFLA offered consultative status to a number of non-governmental organizations operating in related fields, including the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) and the International Publishers Association (IPA). It became a member, along with the International Council of Archives (ICA), International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). This organization was established to collect and disseminate information and to coordinate action in situations when cultural property is at risk.

In August 1991 the IFLA Annual Conference was in Moscow. It occurred during the transfer of power that took place at that time in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

It was the Conference at which Robert Wedgeworth, Dean, School of Library Service, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York was elected President (1991–1997). Under Wedgeworth's presidency annual Conferences were held in New Delhi (1992), Barcelona (1993), Havana (1994), Istanbul (1995), Beijing (1996) and Copenhagen (1997). The PAC Core Programme expanded with regional centres in Caracas, Washington DC, Tokyo, Canberra and Moscow while the ALP utilized the IFLA Regional Division offices and staff in Dakar, Bangkok and São Paulo.

The 1997 Conference in Copenhagen elected Christine Deschamps, Director of the Bibliothèque de l'Université Paris V, as President. In 2001, in IFLA's first postal ballot for the election of the President and members of the Governing Board, Ms Deschamps was re-elected unopposed for a further term of two years (2001–2003). During this period, H. Kay Raseroka, Director of Library Services at the University of Botswana – also elected by postal ballot in 2001 – will serve as President-Elect in accordance with the provisions of the new Statutes which were formally adopted by the IFLA Council in Boston in 2001. Ms Raseroka





Figure 6. Christine Deschamps, President, 1997–.



Figure 7. Leo Voogt, Secretary-General, 1992–1998.

will automatically succeed Ms Deschamps as President in 2003.

Ross Shimmion, Chief Executive of the Library Association, London, England was selected in 1999 as Secretary-General, replacing Leo Voogt who had been appointed in 1992. When he took over his position, the new Secretary-General stated:

The challenges presented by the unprecedented scale and pace of change in our profession, and in the environment in which we op-

erate, mean that IFLA is needed more than ever; as a global library champion to try to narrow the digital divide between the information rich and the information poor which, without positive action, threatens to grow alarmingly.

We need to be vigilant in defending people's rights to access to information, ideas and works of imagination wherever they may be challenged.

We need to help our members demonstrate the value of libraries and librarians in economic and social development.

We need to assist colleagues in parts of the world where the professional infrastructure is at an early stage of development.<sup>2</sup>

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### Planning and Policy

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IFLA's original Long-Term Programme, 'Libraries in the World', was issued in 1963 and served as a guide for IFLA's professional activities until 1975. In 1974 it was proposed that revised and updated documents projecting IFLA's activities for a five-year period would be more effective for planning IFLA's professional programmes. The Programme Development Group prepared IFLA's first Medium-Term Programme (MTP) Document for 1976–1981. In 1982 IFLA published the second MTP for the years 1981 through 1985. The various Core Activities (UBC, UAP and the International MARC Programme) prepared their own individual MTPs.

All of IFLA's professional groups were subject to a system of checks and balances to determine whether they were meeting the objectives upon which their projects were based. The Sections and Divisions constantly monitored new trends and developments to determine whether aspects of these could be incorporated as parts of the professional programmes in general and the Medium-Term Programme in particular.

Through the 1990s the Federation worked according to a policy that was approved in 1991 and reaffirmed by the Executive Board in 1996. Divisions and Sections planned their work and set goals for a four-year term with an accompanying action plan for two years. The Medium-Term Programme 1998–2001 focused attention mainly on dealing with the electronic environment as it affected IFLA's basic objective to promote librarianship globally. Each Division had to carry out its programmes assisted only by limited financial resources.

Over the years, IFLA has issued various policy and position statements on key issues of international importance. Recent examples of these statements are referred to in the appropriate sections below.

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### All Divisions Are Not Equal

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The purpose of formalizing IFLA's professional activities into seven main Divisions in 1974 was to enable the membership to participate in international library professional matters on the basis of two different criteria: type of library institution and type of library activity. It was recognized that in many large national library associations there would be the resources that could allow many persons to contribute to IFLA meetings and professional activities. Room should be found for as many individual international library interests as possible. In the Divisions members could participate in the various Sections as they wished, paying the fees set out for joining them.

In 1976 a further Division was created to respond especially to the professional activities and interests of members in developing countries outside Europe and North America. All Divisions were governed by Divisional officers elected for two-year terms, but eligible for re-election. There were Divisional Coordinating Boards with members who were the Chairs and Secretaries of the Sections of each

Division. By 1 March 2002 there were thirty-seven Sections, ten Round Tables and six Discussion Groups organized within the eight Divisions. Most of the remaining Round Tables will be redesignated as Sections at the Glasgow Conference in 2002.

Each Section is encouraged to publish its own newsletter, generally on a bi-annual basis, which is sent to each Section member. Lists of the names of paid-up Section members are maintained at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. Many Sections have also issued international guidelines on topics in their areas of interest. Examples of these are referred to in the summaries of Section activities which follow.

Discussion Groups are provided in order to test members' support for a newer IFLA programme topic, pending possible creation of a full Section that might deal with it. In 2001, for example, IFLA Council approved the transformation of the former Discussion Group on Reference Work into a Section. The topics currently covered by Discussion Groups are: Knowledge Management, Law Libraries, Marketing Library Services to Academic Communities, Metadata, Performance Measurement in Public Libraries, and Social Responsibilities.

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### **Divisions Dealing with Different Types of Libraries**

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The Divisions which were established in 1976 dealt with three main types of libraries:

- General Research Libraries
- Special Libraries
- Libraries Serving the General Public.

#### *Division of General Research Libraries*

There are three Sections in this Division, for National Libraries; University and other General Research Libraries; and Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments.

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries, which held its first full meeting in 1975, maintained close relations with the National Libraries Section. There were 802 registrations in these three Sections by 1 March 2002.<sup>5</sup>

#### **National Libraries**

This Section has provided international leadership to governmental and non-governmental organizations, including commercial agencies dealing with international information planning and organization. From its memberships many of the leaders of IFLA have been selected. Made up from the staffs of large and small national libraries throughout the world, this Section has guided the evolution of national bibliographic, legal deposit and the preservation of collections of a national character since the early days of IFLA's foundation.

#### **University and other General Research Libraries**

This Section's primary objective, as outlined in its 1981–1985 MTP, was the development of services that would enable these types of libraries to provide universal access to all publications. It was concerned with universal bibliographic control and the professional education of library staff. It recognized the importance of new technology, particularly its cost-effectiveness, and was concerned also with the cost to library services of major changes in bibliographical description. The Section worked towards the improvement of academic and research library services in the less developed countries and supported the organization of seminars and workshops in which librarians could exchange their experience with colleagues from other countries.<sup>4</sup> This Section, with 514 registrations by 1 March 2002, was the most popular of all IFLA Sections.

#### **Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments**

In its MTP of 1981–1985 this Section placed special emphasis on the acquisition, classification and docu-

mentation of the materials necessary to provide an effective service to parliaments. It encouraged direct contact between parliamentary libraries (as these remained the most rapid and efficient methods of providing reliable information on services) and it provided advice on the building up of new parliamentary libraries and the development of comprehensive parliamentary information systems. This Section emphasized the strengthening of cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and parliamentary libraries.<sup>5</sup>

#### *Division of Special Libraries*

The Special Libraries Division has seven Sections in 2002, covering Government Libraries, Social Science Libraries, Geography and Map Libraries, Science and Technology Libraries, Health and Biosciences Libraries, Art Libraries and Genealogy and Local History. The Division has as its primary objective the coordination of IFLA's interests in all those libraries or departments and service units within libraries which are devoted to a particular discipline or group of disciplines, or which provide services to users interested in a particular profession, activity or project. The main feature distinguishing them as a group is their provision of specialized information services for a specialized clientele.<sup>6</sup>

Because a large number of international organizations existed in the field of science and technology, and because the International Federation for Documentation (FID) had for many years developed programmes to meet the needs of scientific and technical libraries, IFLA was not alone in the field of scientific documentation and information exchange management. With the collapse for financial reasons of FID in 2001, there was a new opening for IFLA projects among libraries for furthering the international movement of science and technology information.

By 1 March 2002, the various Special Libraries Sections (excluding the recently-formed Genealogy and

Local History Section, which had not yet begun to register members) recorded a total registration of 508 members.

## *Division of Libraries Serving the General Public*

The Division of Libraries Serving the General Public in 1997 contained the most Sections and Round Tables and recorded a total of 773 registrations – almost as many as the General Research Libraries Division. The Division had begun in 1976 with three Sections dealing respectively with:

- Public Libraries
- Libraries for Children and Young Adults
- School Libraries and Resource Centres.

To these there was added a Section for Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons (including people in hospitals and prisons, the elderly in nursing homes and care facilities, the house-bound, the deaf and the physically and developmentally disabled), which replaced an earlier sub-section for hospital libraries. Several Sections in the Division were based on initiatives of individual national library agencies. A Round Table for Libraries for the Blind, which became a Section in 1983, was created in 1977 and one for Library Services to Multicultural Populations in 1985. Both of these Sections represented important steps in IFLA's initiative to carry library services to a wider international library public.

The Section of Libraries for the Blind was particularly successful in cooperating with the many national services for the blind established in countries throughout the world. In 1998 the Section published *Guidelines for Library Service to Braille Users*.<sup>7</sup>

Following the publication in 1994 of an updated version of the *IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto*<sup>8</sup>, IFLA organized conferences and seminars in many parts of the world to urge government education decision makers at national and local

levels to implement the principles expressed in the *Manifesto*, which is available in several languages.

IFLA subsequently issued a *School Library Manifesto*<sup>9</sup>, which was ratified by the UNESCO General Conference in 1999. School libraries and resource centres have a fundamental role in all types of schools in today's information and knowledge-based society. IFLA makes the principles of this *Manifesto* widely known so that it may be implemented, as well as securing its translation into many languages.

In July 2001 the Public Library Section published the English language edition of new guidelines and standards for public libraries, *The Public Library Service: the IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development*.<sup>10</sup> The guidelines have since been translated into many other languages.

The Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults is currently working on a new edition of its *Guidelines for Children's Library Services*, originally published in 1991, and has also issued *Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults* in several languages.<sup>11</sup>

The Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations has also established guidelines, *Multicultural Communities – Guidelines for Library Services*<sup>12</sup> that are available in several languages and can be used regardless of the size of the populations to be served and the language used. In 1996, at a workshop in Beijing, the Section, together with the Section on Classification and Indexing, took up the topic of Universal Standardized Library Subject Headings, and considered the ways in which these might be achieved.

Three Round Tables form part of the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public:

- International Association of Metropolitan Libraries (INTAMEL). This Round Table began in 1967 as a gathering of directors on public libraries in urban centres

of over 400,000 population at the time of the IFLA General Council meeting in Toronto. It collected and published statistics in public libraries in metropolitan cities, and gradually extended its membership so that it included 65 urban centres in 2001.

- Mobile Libraries  
This Round Table has been of interest to public libraries which serve scattered rural or urban populations. It has an important membership from the Latin American, Caribbean, Asian and African regions.
- National Centres for Library Services (ROTNAC)  
Largely composed of European members, this group represented the interests of national agencies established to provide technical services to a wide range of libraries in each country. By 2001, its Executive included members from a dozen European countries as well as Israel and the Caribbean.

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## **Divisions Dealing with Different Types of Library Activities**

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There were separate Divisions established in 1976 dealing with four distinct library activities:

- Bibliographic Control
- Collections and Services
- Management and Technology
- Education and Research.

### *Division of Bibliographic Control*

After World War II governments in many countries supported the projects begun by UNESCO for the extension of national and international bibliographic control. A Division of Bibliographic Control was created by IFLA in 1976.<sup>13</sup> It encompassed the work of the existing Sections on Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Classification and Indexing.

By 1 March 2002 the Division contained 386 registrations and was a unique international meeting place for bibliographic specialists, as well as national and international library

and bibliographic agencies. National bibliographic control of publications in all their forms and variety had been recognized since the end of World War II as an essential method of achieving cooperation in sharing library resources. With the spreading of computer based library systems around the world, the road to achieving international bibliographical access was seen as requiring machine-readable cataloguing, classification and indexing standards that were operational in all countries.

This goal was at the heart of IFLA's major activity, Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), begun in 1974 and carried out with the cooperation of the members of the Division. The UBC Programme was linked to the development of machine-readable catalogue (MARC) standards and a Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) office was established in order to set up the necessary international standards. To assist members of IFLA in various geographic regions of the world keep abreast of developments, the Division, in cooperation with the UBCIM Office, organized bibliographic control seminars and workshops in the 1990s in places such as Romania, Brazil, Malaysia and Mexico.

In addition, an International Conference on National Bibliographic Services was held in Copenhagen, November 1998, where representatives from 72 countries met to discuss issues related to the continuing spread and development of machine-readable national bibliographies. The conference was held under the auspices of IFLA's Division of Bibliographic Control, the UBCIM Office, and the Section of National Libraries in cooperation with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries.

The purpose was to review and update the recommendations of an earlier International Congress on National Bibliographies held by UNESCO in 1977, in the light of the appearance of new types of publications and new distribution

methods. Twenty-three recommendations relating to coverage, standards and distribution of national bibliographies were agreed to, and formed the programme to be implemented both through IFLA and by national bibliographic agencies.

### *Division of Collections and Services*

Six Sections make up this Division:

- Acquisition and Collection Development
- Document Delivery and Interlending
- Serial Publications
- Government Information and Official Publications
- Rare Books and Manuscripts
- Reference Work.

The various types of library activities included in the responsibilities of the above Sections and its Round Table on Newspapers had attracted 686 registrations by 1 March 2002, reflecting the basic worldwide importance of collection management and acquisition methods that libraries had undertaken for centuries, and the recognition that many of these functions lend themselves to international cooperation between libraries.

In 2001, the Section on Acquisition and Collection Development issued *Guidelines for a Collection Development Policy using the Conspectus Model* in English, French and Spanish.<sup>14</sup>

The Section on Document Delivery and Interlending is the forum in IFLA for libraries and associations concerned with making information in all formats available throughout the world through a variety of resource sharing and document supply techniques. The Section works closely with the IFLA Office for International Lending in support of the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) Core Programme.

The pioneer operational agency of IFLA dealing with document de-

livery and interlending was its Office for International Lending (ILL) at the British Library's Document Supply Centre at Boston Spa, established in 1973. With only minimal financial support from IFLA, the ILL Office carried on over a period of thirty years establishing a widening presence in the evolution of information exchanges and the management of collection policies. It provided the leadership that would eventually lead to IFLA's Core Programme of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).

In 2001, the Section on Document Delivery and Interlending, the Core Programme for UAP and the Office for International Lending published a major revision of *International Lending and Document Delivery: Principles and Guidelines for Procedure*,<sup>15</sup> which had been first agreed to by IFLA in 1954. The document includes references to other IFLA guidelines on specific aspects of interlending, such as the use of fax and e-mail.

The Section on Serial Publications issued the *Basic Serials Management Handbook*<sup>16</sup> in 1996.

The Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts turned its attention to the problems inherent in the safeguarding and preservation of library materials. This generated support, along with that from the Section on Preservation and Conservation, for the PAC Programme launched in 1986.

The newly established Section on Reference Work is still in process of registering members, its upgrading from a Round Table having been approved only in 2001.

The Round Table on Newspapers has issued *Guidelines for Newspaper Preservation Microfilming* in English<sup>17</sup> and French, and *International Guidelines for the Cataloguing of Newspapers*.<sup>18</sup>

### *Division of Management and Technology*

By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the manner in which libraries were

organized and managed in most countries bore little resemblance to the methods used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In order to help its members keep abreast of management and technical changes, this Division was created in 1977 and brought together key technical and management concerns in six Sections:

- Preservation and Conservation
- Library Buildings and Equipment
- Information Technology
- Statistics
- Management and Marketing
- Audiovisual and Multimedia.

The Division also had Round Tables on Women's Issues in Libraries and the Management of Library Associations.

The Division had a registration of 1001 by 1 March 2002, of which 438 were registered for the Information Technology Section.

The Round Table on Management of Library Associations has issued three sets of brief guidelines: *Guidelines for Financial Management of Library Associations*,<sup>19</sup> *Guidelines for Governing and Leading Library Associations*<sup>20</sup> and *Guidelines for Library Association Operations*.<sup>21</sup>

### *Division of Education and Research*

The Division of Education and Research has as its primary objective the support for the formulation and implementation at national levels of plans for library, information and archive systems. It believes that these can only be achieved through the provision of adequately educated and trained manpower. Such plans require the development and improvement of the links between education and research, bearing in mind the evolution of these services. The library needs of the non-industrialized countries require the support of research oriented towards their own special requirements. Research results, the provision of education of the highest standard, the development of library and information science professions and

strong and effective representations of the library and information services to governments nationally and internationally presuppose the dissemination of relevant information in these fields through the channels of reliable and regularly updated professional journals and education curricula.

The Division has Sections for:

- Education and Training
- Library Theory and Research
- Reading.

There are Round Tables for Continuing Professional Education, Library History, Library and Information Science Journals, and User Education. There were 446 registrations in the Division by 1 March 2002.

The Section on Education and Training recently issued *Guidelines for Professional Library/Information Educational Programs – 2000*<sup>22</sup>, which are in effect a revision of the *Standards for Library Schools* published by IFLA in 1976.

### *Division of Regional Activities*

The ground was prepared for IFLA's Division for Regional Activities in 1971, when a group of English-speaking members, mainly from former colonial countries, met at a UNESCO sponsored IFLA Pre-Session Seminar in Liverpool. There were similar meetings of French-speaking members in Africa in 1973 and Spanish-speaking members in 1974 in Washington, DC. The Division for Regional Activities was set up in 1976 with each of the three principal language working groups constituted as its members.<sup>23</sup>

The main purpose of the Division was to help the small newer national library associations in third world countries lobby for greater support for library development, including library and information training and library and information services financing. This Division was quite different in character from the other seven Divisions. It was not included in the responsibilities

of IFLA's Professional Board, remaining dependent on the Executive Board for guidance and financial assistance. From the viewpoint of the dominant European and North American library membership of IFLA, most of IFLA's financial resources were felt to be needed for the seven other Divisions, and for supporting the increasingly larger Annual General Conferences. The fact that IFLA did hold its Conferences in the Philippines, Kenya, India, Cuba, Turkey and China in the years from 1988 to 1996 helped to foster world librarianship, but at a cost to the programme in other Divisions. There was only so much support from the Headquarters staff that could be spent on the concerns of Third World member associations.

In 1984 representatives from the Division met to restructure their Sections so that they could perform more effectively. The result was a document entitled *The Twenty-five Essential Points*. It was agreed that a sub-regional structure, with a ten-member Standing Committee for each sub-region, should be established within each of the three main regions. They proposed the establishment of Regional Offices with Regional Managers and set out the geographical membership of the sections and rules for participation in the Regional Standing Committees and Divisional Coordinating Board. Some changes were made by the Executive Board following their outlines.

By 1995 the number of individual members of the Africa Section had grown to 88, membership of the Latin America and the Caribbean Section stood at 93 and there were 193 members in the Asia and Oceania Section, giving a total of 374. By 1997 the Regional Activities Division had acquired a larger number of individual members than several other Divisions, such as Bibliographic Control, or Education and Research, at that date. It had slightly fewer members than the Special Libraries Division. A new Core Programme plan entitled *Advancement of Librarianship (ALP)* had been launched in 1991 by a



Figure 8. Derek Law, Treasurer, 1997-.

Scandinavian group of countries and was showing impressive results.

By 1 March 2002 there were 639 individual registrations in the Regional Activities Division, with 133 in the Africa Section, 330 in the Asia and Oceania Section, and 176 in the Section for Latin America and the Caribbean. New national library association members joining IFLA from developing countries in recent years have included those of Lesotho, Namibia, Nepal (1990); Argentina (1994); Paraguay (1995); Surinam, Chile (1996); Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar (1997); Cambodia (1999) Papua New Guinea (2000); and Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Uruguay (2001).

The report of the Professional Board for 1997-1999 stated:

However, we have to discuss further how to be able to secure representation from developing countries on the IFLA Governing Board. We see no future though, in keeping a separate division for the developing countries. We have experienced that the representatives from the three regions very seldom take part in the professional work in the other parts of the organization, and thus we miss their important advice and experiences in the different Sections that

deal with the various types of libraries or library activity.<sup>24</sup>

In 1999, when a new administrative structure was being envisioned for IFLA, it was recommended to IFLA Council that the Division of Regional Activities be abolished. To the surprise of many, the membership did not accept the recommendation, and the matter was restudied the next year. A report submitted to the 2000 Council recommended that the Division be continued, but that methods be tried to integrate the Division and its Sections into IFLA's existing structure.

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### Management of the Professional Activities of Divisions and Sections

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The evolution of the role of the Divisions from 1976 to 2001 in IFLA was marked by continuing discussion of the way in which the achievements of the Divisions could be evaluated, and the way in which funds that were at IFLA's disposal could be used to better advantage for Divisional projects. A Programme Development Group had been inaugurated in 1969 to plan the professional work of IFLA. At the time of the new Statutes in 1976 a Professional Board was created to coordinate the activities of the seven existing Divisions. This Board continued until 2001.

By 1999 it was seen that, among other changes in IFLA's management, there was a need for more effective and economical integration of policy and the professional work of the Federation. Treasurer Warren Horton stated that in 1997 IFLA had recovered from a financial deficit situation it had experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s and that 1996 marked the fourth year in a row that a small financial surplus had been achieved.

The next Treasurer, Derek Law, reported that in 1998 income had been NLG 1,741,000 and expenditure NLG 1,640,000, giving a surplus of NLG 114,000.<sup>25</sup> Librarians and libraries in many countries

had experienced many of the same financial problems that had plagued the world in that period, with currency devaluation affecting library budgets. By 1998 there was a satisfactory trend in increasing revenue in IFLA, thanks largely to the support of Sponsors in the Basic, Sustaining and Patron categories.

In 1998 NLG 234,000 was spent on the Division, Section, and other professional programmes, with a further income of NLG 192,000 in grants for the Core Programmes. NLG 178,000 in grants had been received by IFLA, mainly from UNESCO<sup>26</sup> for professional activities. The Chair of the Professional Board reported for 1997-1999 that, except for the Core Programme officers, it was necessary to remember that all the members of the different committees handle their IFLA work voluntarily on the top of real jobs and personal lives. The Professional Board realized that time is a valuable commodity for many committee members. Creating large projects and publishing long substantial reports was becoming more and more difficult. She recommended that the next Board would have to look carefully at how the project money would be used.

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### IFLA's Core Programmes and Activities

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In the evolution of IFLA's new structure from 1977, members' interests developed from Discussion Groups to Round Tables to Sections. The Sections were added to the appropriate Divisions established in 1974. This progression allowed for participation of an increasing number of members, as well as providing for expression of new interests and topics springing up in the 1980s and 1990s. There was, however, a price that had to be paid. As a volunteer organization, IFLA could only command the personal time and energy that individual libraries or staff members could put at the disposal of the Sections or Divisions. The result was generally that over the years the Sectional projects were

modest in scope and effect, and often barely visible either in their own countries or abroad. There was a dilution in the amount of financial assistance that the Divisions could receive from the membership fees in order to carry out their work. Attention had to be turned to securing other sources of economic support if programmes were to be continued and expanded.

Instead of developing small projects based on volunteer interest, the IFLA Executive Board began to establish Core Programmes for a limited number of major activities that cut across Division lines, but were anchored in Division interests. The method which IFLA planners decided to use, starting in the late 1970s and on into the early 1990s, was to secure more paid staff assistance from national and other libraries for specific targeted activities, with the necessary funds to meet the cost of programmes, personnel and projects coming also in the form of donations and grants from a wide range of national and international government and non-governmental organizations and from various other members of the international library community, including commercial firms. This period of the 1970s and 1980s fortunately coincided with rising economic prosperity in some of the larger established national library institutions, particularly in Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain and the USA.

Unlike the Divisions, the IFLA Core Programme activities could count on regular financial assistance and the work of their own specialist international staff. In a period of 20 years, five Core Programmes evolved along with two Core Activities. In order to ensure coordination of Core Programme activities the Executive Board in 1979 established a small Programme Management Committee, (PMC) whose first Chair was Foster Mohrhardt. A representative from the Conference of Directors of National Libraries was a member. In 1991 the work of the PMC was taken over by the IFLA Professional Board and the Committee was disbanded.

#### *Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM)*

The realization of the need to rationalize the record of the outpouring of printed and audio-visual scientific, technical, literary and artistic publications after World War II led to a search for international standardization in bibliographic registration and exchange. National libraries in all countries were caught up with the modernization of their copyright, legal deposit and national bibliographic responsibilities.

Following the post-World War II leadership of the British Museum Library and the Library of Congress of the USA, UNESCO introduced 'bibliographic control' into the international library lexicon in 1949 and accepted responsibility to assist libraries to meet the new international challenges in bibliographic and publication exchange.<sup>27</sup>

The time was ripe for the development of international bibliographic guidelines. National libraries took on the role of leadership, with particular attention to the needs of current national bibliographies. It was recognized by the directors of national libraries and UNESCO that efforts were now urgently necessary to produce agreed international recommendations in a timely manner. In 1961 the first of a series of international conferences on standardized library catalogue rules took place in Paris under the auspices of IFLA and with the financial support of UNESCO and the Council on Library Resources, USA. Out of the recommendations of this Conference, the International Standards for Bibliographic Description (ISBDs) gradually emerged. The British Library in London had provided premises to IFLA for drafting the ISBDs. In 1969 IFLA's International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts had met in Copenhagen.

In 1973 the IFLA General Conference in Grenoble made Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) a core



Figure 9. Marie-France Plassard, Director, UBCIM Programme.

programme along with the creation in London of a UBC office with a small staff. A further IFLA- and UNESCO-sponsored conference in 1977 in Paris was able to capitalize on the momentum that the UBC Programme had developed.

A concern that was now emerging in the world of bibliographic standards was the effect of mechanization. Machine-readable cataloguing standards, or MARC as they came to be known, were being developed in various countries seeking a solution to duplication in the provision of library collection records. The IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control undertook responsibility for dissemination of the publications developed by the UBC Core Programme and offering assistance in assessing the standards provided.

The search for guidelines for machine-readable cataloguing started in the 1970s and led in 1983 to the establishment of a universal MARC format and its inclusion in the UBC Core Programme. In 1988 the title of the Programme changed to Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) and the headquarters moved to the Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Marie-France Plassard is currently Director of the Programme.



Figure 10. Graham Cornish, former Director, UAP Programme.

Considerable progress was achieved in creating new national current bibliographies in countries where growing literary output was stimulated by a rising publishing industry. By 1998, 67 newer countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Transcaucasia had developed current national bibliographies or suitable substitutions. The newest national bibliographies or 'new beginnings' were in Armenia (1995), Bahrain (1991), Brunei (1996), Namibia (1996), Turkmenistan (1991), and the United Arab Emirates (1990).<sup>28</sup>

The UBCIM Programme has issued several manuals and guidelines for UNIMARC, which are listed on the IFLANET website<sup>29</sup> and are also available in print from the UBCIM Programme.

*Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and International Library Lending (ILL)*

Access to printed publications, particularly the exchange of official publications on an international basis, was a topic which had inspired governmental interest from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The vast increase in worldwide scientific and technical publishing led large national libraries to pursue cooperative methods to secure access to

such materials. The creation of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology (later to become the British Library Document Supply Centre – BLDSC) in Boston Spa after 1945, and its emphasis on filling library and user requests for information by lending thousands of periodicals internationally, revolutionized national and international practice for publication exchange arrangements.

An IFLA Office for International Lending (ILL) was created in 1973 at Boston Spa, with the support of the British Library. In 1977 a provisional Steering Committee for UAP was set up under W.R.H. Koops. In 1982 the Universal Access to Publications (UAP) Core Programme was officially established by IFLA and based at the BLDSC.

Over the years the UAP and ILL Core Programme sponsored a wide range of international and regional conferences on publication availability and lending. A major event in 1988 was the Interlending and Document Supply International Conference, held in London and organized jointly by the UAP Office and the journal *Interlending and Document Supply*. Topics covered ranged from models of interlending systems to the problems of the Third World and from copyright to the use of telefacsimile. Delegates from 28 countries registered for the event. There were also workshops in Eastern Europe and China, and seminars in Africa and Latin America. By 1999 the UAP office had begun to work on problems of access to digital materials for libraries, in cooperation with other IFLA units.

The ILL office distributed for sale the IFLA International Loan/Photocopy Request Form, often as many as 100,000 annually. It inaugurated in 1990 the IFLA Voucher Scheme to enable cash-free international interlibrary loan transactions to take place.

The British Library Document Supply Centre continued to provide accommodation and supporting

services. Maurice B. Line retired from the British Library in 1988, but retained the position of Director of the Programme for some time after this. Graham Cornish was Director of the UAP Core Programme until the end of 2001.

The UAP Programme took on the secretaryship of IFLA's Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), established in 1996 to ensure that the voice of the users of libraries would be heard in determining copyright legislation.

*Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT)*

During the 1970s and 1980s national libraries in many countries, along with national bibliographical agencies and leading large academic libraries, began to adopt online computer methods of handling many of their traditional collection management functions. With the coming of cheaper electronic data storage and transmission, many commercial publishers began to utilize online and CD-ROM methods of document production, updating, delivery and storage. In 1985 an IFLA Core Programme that became the Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications Programme (UDT) was established in the National Library of Canada, Ottawa. The Programme sought to facilitate national and international exchange of electronic data by providing the world library community with demonstrations of the way information technology and telecommunications could be utilized. Leigh Swain succeeded Cynthia Durance as Director of the International Office of UDT in Ottawa in 1988.

At the IFLA Conference in Sydney, Australia in 1988, a project to demonstrate the use of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI)-based Interlibrary Loan (ILL) protocol for the international exchange of electronic ILL messages, was approved. This project was the major focus of the UDT Programme after 1988. Project participants were the British Library Document Supply Centre and the National Library of



Canada. The project consisted of two phases: the first phase was a feasibility study; the second phase was a pilot demonstration.

A second project in the UDT Programme was the creation of a technical working group within IFLA to formulate the positions of the library and information community on OSI-related issues. This was seen as a long-term project that required adequate funding and extensive consultation and definition. At the Sydney meeting of the UDT Advisory Committee it was decided to defer formation of this group pending the completion of the UDT ILL Demonstration Project, by which time the scope for the working group would be more apparent.

#### Establishment of IFLANET

A major focus for the work of the UDT Office was the establishment in 1993 of IFLANET, the IFLA website on the Internet. The site proved extremely valuable in carrying forward IFLA's programmes. At first hosted by the National Library of Canada, the site established mirror sites in Europe and Asia. Besides listing IFLA general information it carried annual Conference information and e-mail discussion lists of many of the Sections and Round Tables, as well as up to date information on IFLA's publications. Some 2000 other Internet sites and servers were linked to it. In 2002 IFLA Headquarters took over responsibility for the management of IFLANET, and the Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST) in France became the main server site, with a mirror site still for Asia.<sup>30</sup>

Realizing that not everyone in the IFLA community has access to the World Wide Web or, if they did, it could be quite costly, one of IFLA's Patron Sponsors, SilverPlatter USA, first introduced a CD-ROM version of IFLANET in June 1996, called *IFLANET Unplugged*. Copies of the CD-ROM were distributed to all 1996 Conference participants. In 1998, IFLA and the Sponsor signed a contract under which the

latter will continue to produce and make available a yearly CD-ROM through the IFLA Conference in Glasgow 2002.

#### *Preservation and Conservation (PAC)*

IFLA's Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) was launched in Vienna, Austria during the 1986 Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials sponsored by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries, with IFLA and UNESCO.

Contrary to other IFLA Core Programmes, PAC was established in a decentralized way. It consisted of a central Focal Point to manage activities and Regional Centres responsible for developing projects in their regions. The Focal Point (International Centre) has been hosted by the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris since 1992 and there are six Regional Centres located in Washington DC, (Library of Congress), Caracas (Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela), Tokyo (National Diet Library), Canberra (National Library of Australia), and Moscow (Library of Foreign Literature). The International Centre in Paris acts as the Regional Centre for Western Europe, Middle East and Africa. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff was the Programme's Director in 2000.

The International Centre and the Regional Centres cooperate closely. The main working rules are defined in an 'agreement' between IFLA and each Centre. Each Centre is independently managed and acts according to the requirements identified in its geographical area. The directors meet annually for working sessions to define the scope of the Programme.

The Programme received much cooperation from the IFLA Section on Conservation. *International Preservation News*, the newsletter of PAC, is published annually, along with guidelines on conservation methods and other reports.

An International Conference on Preservation and Conservation was



Figure 11. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, Director, PAC Programme.

held at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, May 22-24, 1989 sponsored by IFLA/PAC, the IFLA Conservation Section, the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers, and the IFLA Section on Serial Publications. The first part of the conference (two days) was attended by scientists active in the field of preservation. The second part (five days) was a consultation on research and technology in preservation and consisted of presentations on the environment, insects and mould, basic materials research, and building design and construction.

In addition to responding to numerous requests for preservation information, the International Focal Point distributed a lengthy bibliography on preservation microfilming. PAC is also working actively with various national agencies in coordinating international response to damage to libraries, such as the disastrous fire that struck the Academy of Sciences Library in Lenin-grad in 1989.

The International Committee of the Blue Shield was created in 1996 by IFLA, ICA, ICOM, and ICOMOS for the protection of cultural heritage objects in case of armed conflict and natural disasters. This committee aims to be strengthened by the creation of national Blue Shield committees.



Figure 12. Birgitta Bergdahl, first Director of the ALP Programme.



Figure 13. (L. to R.) Birgitta Sandell, Director of the ALP Programme, Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer, ALP, and Pensri Guay-suzwan, ALP Regional Manager, Asia and Oceania, at the Amsterdam Conference, 1998.

The PAC Core Programme collaborated with the Council on Library and Information Resources of the USA to publish the *IFLA Principles For The Care And Handling Of Library Material*, 1998.<sup>31</sup>

#### *Advancement of Librarianship (ALP)*

ALP is the acronym used for IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World. ALP was officially launched at the IFLA General Conference in Nairobi (Kenya) in 1984.

The original concept was that the activities of IFLA for and in the Third World would need a formal structure so that fundraising and projects carried out would be better organized and coordinated.

The structure of the already existing Core Programmes was followed and a provisional Focal Point was established at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. However, while UBCIM, UAP, UDT and PAC are subject-oriented, ALP includes a more general mission for the development and improvement of librarianship in the Third World countries. This means that ALP projects and projects developed by the other Core Programmes often have much in common. One could

question whether, for instance, a UBCIM or PAC project for the Third World is automatically an ALP project. IFLA Headquarters staff have said for many years that by its very nature the role of ALP was not always clear.

It was felt that the complexity of the work needed more attention and financial support than could be provided from IFLA Headquarters. In 1987 IFLA endorsed an initiative of the Nordic countries to set up a Focal Point for ALP in those countries. The Nordic proposal included a one-year pre-planning period and a three-year pilot project in order to explore how the Third World could best be served.

The Nordic initiative was received with enthusiasm by the Executive Board of IFLA and the plan was discussed at the Brighton Conference in 1987. IFLA members from Latin America and Asia asked that due attention be given in the planning and carrying out of existing regional activities and programmes, not only those undertaken by IFLA, but also those of other organizations. An important part of the study should be the way in which cooperation and coordination for all action plans by library organizations in the same region could be included in the new concept.

In September 1988 IFLA received the message that the Nordic Council of Ministers had not accepted the project. However, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), via the Swedish Library Association (SAB), offered financial support for a one-year feasibility study and a possible Swedish Focal Point to be implemented at the University Library of Uppsala under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Tottie, Chief Librarian. Summarized, the terms of reference of the project were:

- definition of realistic objectives
- proposal of programme contents and priorities
- outline of structure and organization of ALP
- undertaking of consultations with future hosts of the programme, the regional and national levels, including the involvement of Sweden
- definition of funding sources and the start of preliminary negotiations with potential main sponsors
- proposal of ways of programme launching, implementation and functioning.

The project was initiated in 1991 and carried out in consultation with the Standing Committees of the Sections on Regional Activities

and the Managers of the IFLA Regional Offices. Birgitta Bergdahl was the first Director of the Programme and Birgitta Sandell became Director in 2001.

Discussions held on the relocation of the Regional Offices took a great deal of time and energy, and resulted in the move of the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to Bangkok (Thailand). In April 1989 the Executive Board appointed Ms Pongpan Rattanabusit, Librarian of the British Council in Bangkok, as Regional Manager. She was succeeded by Ms. Pensri Guaysuwan and the host of the Regional Office in Bangkok was the Thai Library Association, with strong moral support offered by the National Library of Thailand.

In 1997, in an attempt to address the problems of communication and coordination within the Regions, the Executive Board reviewed a proposal to amend IFLA's Rules of Procedure in such a way that the Regional Standing Committees would be treated the same as the non-regional Standing Committees. The proposal was implemented in the new Statutes of IFLA in 2000.

*Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE)*

In 1997, IFLA created a Committee focusing on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE). In 1999 it issued a statement in which it affirmed its support, defence and promotion of intellectual freedom as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. IFLA declared that human beings have a fundamental right to access to expressions of knowledge, creative thought and intellectual activity, and to express their views publicly.

In its statement IFLA said that the right to know and freedom of expression are two aspects of the same principle. The right to know is a requirement for freedom of thought and conscience; freedom

of thought and freedom of expression are necessary conditions for freedom of access to information.

IFLA asserts that a commitment to intellectual freedom is a core responsibility for the library and information profession. IFLA calls upon libraries and library staff to adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom, uninhibited access to information and freedom of expression and to recognize the privacy of library users. IFLA urges its members to promote the acceptance and realization of these principles.

In 2001 IFLA/FAIFE published a *Libraries and Intellectual Freedom World Report*,<sup>32</sup> a first major attempt to establish contact worldwide in regard to the practices of libraries and their defence of intellectual freedom. More than 140 countries were contacted and about a quarter of the independent nations of the world and a third of the countries represented in IFLA were included.

The *World Report* is a short, factual account and gives the actual situation in the country or region, including:

- the general situation concerning libraries, librarianship, and intellectual freedom
- specific cases, incidents, or examples of challenges of censorship, or other violations of intellectual freedom
- the legislation of relevance to libraries, librarianship and intellectual freedom
- library associations' positions and politics related to intellectual freedom including professional codes of conduct or ethics.

The accounts of national library situations provided an overview of the state of library service worldwide. They demonstrated the effects that wars, colonialism, ideology and religion have or have had on the development of libraries and the role they play in society.

The IFLA/FAIFE office is situated in Copenhagen, Denmark and is



Figure 14. Susanne Seidelin, Director, IFLA/FAIFE, with Ross Shimmon, Secretary-General, 1998-, at IFLA Headquarters.

supported primarily by Denmark and Sweden. The current Director is Susanne Seidelin.

*Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM)*

The concern of IFLA with copyright and libraries dates back for decades. In the past 25 years efforts were begun in establishing a joint working group on copyright between IFLA and the International Association of Law Libraries at the General Council meeting in Washington, DC in 1974. High on the list of concerns at that time was the impact being made by computer technology on copyrights.

In 1997 the Executive Board established the Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) and Marianne Scott, former National Librarian of Canada, was invited to become Chair. The Committee aims to ensure that the voices of the profession and, more importantly, of the users of libraries, are heard in the international arenas determining copyright legislation.

A call for nominations for members was made and the Committee had its first series of formal meetings during the IFLA Conference



Figure 15. Warren Horton, Treasurer 1993–1997, and Marianne Scott, Chair, CLM Committee, at the Amsterdam Conference, 1998.

in Amsterdam in 1998. There was a wide range of issues which have legal overtones which were of interest to members. Copyright and, in particular, the activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) are paramount. Other issues were how to improve the knowledge and understanding of copyright among members, issues relating to the Florence Agreement, which deals with the importation of educational books and other information products, and licensing. CLM is most interested in clauses of contracts for fees and licenses, particularly those that have some impact on the concept of fair use or fair dealing.

The position in which libraries in many countries find themselves as a result of global mergers of large multinational publishing corporations has become a concern. Issues of privacy are paramount, and the repatriation of war booty is a topic of interest, as is the Blue Shield Agreement, and the protection of cultural properties during times of conflict and natural disaster.

The Committee consists of both nominated members and resource persons identified by Committee members as well as others who could make a valuable contribution in this area. Some 23 coun-

tries are represented on the Committee, giving a wide geographical and economic spread of interests. Working Groups of two or more Committee members have been established to look at all the topics mentioned above. The Secretariat is provided by the IFLA UAP Office at the British Library in Boston Spa. As well as providing the normal Secretariat services the UAP Office is collecting information on legal developments which relate to library matters throughout the world.

In 2000, the Committee issued the IFLA Position Paper on Copyright in the Digital Environment.<sup>33</sup>

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### IFLA Looks Ahead

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When the authorized delegates from fifteen countries met in Edinburgh on September 30, 1927 on behalf of their respective library organizations and signed the agreement that established the 'International Library and Bibliographical Committee' they did it as an act of faith in the place of libraries and bibliography in the world of the future.

By taking this step they provided the beginning for a Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

to grow over the next 75 years. Succeeding governing Councils of IFLA demonstrated this same faith. Modifications to the Statutes of the Federation were made in Rome and Venice in 1929, in Warsaw in 1959 and again in Rome in 1964. The changes made in Lausanne in 1976 established its management for the ensuing twenty years. The rapid membership growth of the 1980s demonstrated that further shifts in the IFLA management methods were again necessary. By 1990 the Federation included 1305 member library associations and affiliates and others with consultative status from 132 countries; 86 of which were countries in the Third World.<sup>34</sup> The Spanish language had become IFLA's fifth official language in 1989. A major effort was also made to form a group of sponsors for IFLA. These were commercial firms and agencies that would become members and provide financial support. As far as support from governments was concerned, IFLA expressed willingness to cooperate not only with the United Nations Agencies but also with the European Community and governments in other parts of the world. Participation at Annual Conferences had been growing, with numbers reaching 2000, 3000 and even 5000 persons.<sup>35</sup>

In 1999 a Working Group on the Revision of IFLA's Statutes and Rules of Procedure led by Warren Horton reported on very fundamental changes in the governing arrangements for IFLA. The Working Group was unanimously of the view that the Federation should continue to be essentially library based, but also hospitable to information intermediaries. It believed that the combination of associations, institutions and people was central to the future health and growth of the Federation and its effectiveness and vitality. However, its organizational structure at that time did not reflect this. Nationalism very much inhibited the potential of the Federation to be a truly worldwide body.

Key issues included the governing mechanisms, which made it ex-

tremely difficult for people outside the large developed countries which have formed the traditional power blocs in the Federation to be elected. This concentration of power was bad for the organization. The voting systems, based upon participation through attendance at annual conferences and a complex yet narrow proxy system, also acted to disenfranchise many members. The Working Group advocated a new structure for the Federation which would embrace the following principles:<sup>36</sup>

- the opportunity for wider international involvement from the membership at the policy level
- a more democratic electoral system while still recognizing that the Federation rests upon a strong association base
- more effective integration of the policy and professional work of the Federation.

The Working Group made the following suggestions in its first two recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the Council, but meeting annually, continues as the governing body of the Federation.

Recommendation 2: That the present governing mechanisms be replaced by:

- A Governing Board of not less than 25 members but not more than 30 members responsible for the policy and professional activities of the Federation. That it be elected every two years by a postal/electronic voting system with the results declared at the next Council. That the terms of office are for two years with the possibility of re-election for one consecutive term of two years.
- The Governing Board membership to consist of the President and Vice-President (President Elect) elected directly by the membership; a Second Vice-President and Treasurer elected by the Governing Board from among its members; thirteen Governing Board members elected

by Council; and elected members of the Professional Committee representing the IFLA Divisions, and the elected Chair of the Professional Committee.

Further recommendations set out various other changes in the 1974 Statutes.

A discussion on the suggested changes took place at the Bangkok Conference in 1999 when all recommendations except one were ratified. After further discussion at the 2000 Conference in Jerusalem the revised Statutes of Rules and Procedure were adopted.

Article 6 of the new Statutes sets out the Federation's core values. These are:

- the belief that people, communities and organizations need free access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their physical, mental, democratic and economic well-being
- the conviction that the provision and delivery of high quality library and information services help guarantee that access
- the commitment to enable library associations and institutions throughout the world and their staff to participate in the governance and policy development of the Federation, regardless of geographical location
- the endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- the belief in the right of all Members of the Federation to engage in and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, ethnic origin, gender, language, political philosophy, race or religion.<sup>37</sup>

On the occasion of the General Conference in Boston, August 19, 2001, the new Council enlarged the categories of membership to permit more individuals to join, including as Institutional Members those who are sub-units of larger library members, one-person library units and

individual school libraries and resource centres. The membership rates for such one-person libraries in least developed countries were less than half the fee for those in developed countries.

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### IFLA and the Digital Divide

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Unlike access of libraries to printed publications, access to materials published and distributed electronically has caused many changes in all aspects of library services throughout the world. New methods and systems of conservation, collection building, reference use and staff training were needed to accompany the spread of the personal computer and its impact on libraries since the 1980s.

Not all users of libraries have access to electronic information services. Thus there has developed the term 'digital divide', which is used, *inter alia*, to describe the division between library services in rich and in poor countries, and between those which could bring the content of electronic communication networks to their users and those which could not. A first priority of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group (part of the Education and Training Section) has been to address the growing gap between the information rich and the information poor both between countries and within countries. On 1 May 2002, IFLA proclaimed the *IFLA Internet Manifesto*, prepared by IFLA/FAIFE, which declared that

Unhindered access to information is essential to freedom, equality, global understanding and peace.<sup>38</sup>

The Manifesto is issued in English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Library services have found themselves having to accommodate a growing number of internationally traded electronic information products all seeking to ensure profitability for their owners. Beginning in

1985 the World Trade Organization (WTO) took inter-governmental responsibility for tasks previously carried out by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Several major international inter-governmental agreements affecting information services which the WTO adopted included the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

TRIPS became the most comprehensive international governmental instrument on intellectual property management. Library use of intellectual property was changed by its terms. The Agreement established minimum national standards for copyright and related rights, including computer programmes and databases. Those standards can be enforced in any countries that adhere to the Agreement. The development of enforcement methods in the TRIPS Agreement is a departure from pre-existing conventions on intellectual property rights.<sup>39</sup>

The stated objective of TRIPS is universality. Industrialized countries pressured developing countries to accept the TRIPS Agreement with the clear objective of universalizing the standards of intellectual property protection which the industrialized countries had incorporated in their own national legislations.

IFLA responded to this new international order with two major declarations, one on *Licensing Principles*, adopted in March 2001,<sup>40</sup> and the second on IFLA's position on the World Trade Organization, first adopted in 1999 and amended in 2001 at the General Conference in Boston.<sup>41</sup> By 2001, after several rounds of inter-governmental negotiations, thirteen countries, including the USA, Japan and Singapore, had made commitments to provide access in trading arrangements to 'libraries, archives, museums and other cultural services'. It is probable that more countries will be entering into GATS negotiations in the years ahead. This will have its effect on modification of the world



Figure 16. H. Kay Raseroka, President-Elect, 2001–2003.

digital divide, and can conceivably bring about changes in national library and information services, particularly in developing countries.

H. Kay Raseroka, President-Elect of IFLA in 2001, stated:

The prominence of information communication technology in information delivery and the need for privatization, at the instigation of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, has resulted in the revival of interest in the formulation of national information policies. More often than not, however, such policies are concerned with information conduits rather than information content. It is imperative, therefore, that library systems, as content providers, participate in all efforts for creating information policies and advocate for the creation of a holistic approach through which clearly defined roles and sustainable financing of activities of all information service stakeholders may be established. This is an area in which high level international advocacy through UNESCO and IFLA is urgently needed.<sup>42</sup>

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# The Inspiration and the Facts: Library and Information Services in the United Kingdom

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Bob Usherwood is Professor of Librarianship at the University of Sheffield's Department of Information Studies. Previously he was Chief Librarian in the London Borough of Lambeth. He has also worked for Devon County Libraries, the London Boroughs of Havering and Sutton, and the Polytechnic of North London. His work has taken him to many countries, including Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Poland, Russia, Scandinavia, Singapore and Swaziland. In 1978 he received the Senior Librarians Award, which enabled him to investigate library public relations in the United States. In 1991 he was invited to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. He is a member of the IFLA Section on Library Theory and Research. He has served on the Library Advisory Council for England (LACE), the Library Association Council, and many professional committees. He was presented with an Honorary Fellowship of the Library Association in 1992 and made a Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists in 1993. He was President of the Library Association in 1998.

His research interests include the value and impact of library services, public policy issues, and public library management. He led the research team that was responsible for the 1995 Library Association Model Statement of Standards for Public Library Services, and a member of the Steering Group for the recently published joint standards of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Library Association. He was a member of the Public Library Review team of the Association for Information Management (ASLIB), and in 1998 completed a social audit of public library services. Another project, the Public Library Workforce Study, was published last year, as were the results of a



study on the value and impact of public library book reading. He is currently working on an assessment of cross-domain projects in the South West of England, and an evaluation of The Vital Link literacy and basic skills project. He is also responsible for Sheffield University's Centre for the Public Library and Information in Society (CEPLIS). Details on the centre can be found at <http://panizzi.shef.ac.uk/cplis/> together with a list of publications.

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For this one's dreams and that  
one's acts,  
For all who've failed or aged  
beyond  
The reach of teachers, here are  
found  
The inspiration and the facts

Ted Hughes, 1930–1998,  
Poet Laureate.  
In: *New Library: The People's  
Network*. 1997.

Traditionally the introduction to the library and information services of the nation hosting the IFLA conference has been arranged by type of library. This year's break with that tradition reflects the view that the similarities between the different sectors of the library and information profession are increasingly greater than the differences. It also acknowledges that an excellent factual summary of British librarianship can be found in the joint publication by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and the British Council, *An Investment In Knowledge: Library And Information Services In The United Kingdom 2002*, (to be published in August 2002 and made available to delegates attending the IFLA Conference in Glasgow).

The present discussion of services and organizations in the United Kingdom is therefore organized on a cross-sector, thematic basis. This is not to suggest that there are not important differences between the different types of organization. Nor is it to underestimate the tensions that can sometimes exist between different professional constituencies. Indeed, in a different way, such 'tensions' can be found in the British constitution itself. The Britain that you visit in August 2002 is a different nation from the one you might have visited in 1987 when IFLA was last held in Britain, and it has certainly changed significantly from the country that saw the formation of the Federation in 1927.



IFLA's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration is to be held in Scotland. This is now a country with its own legislature, as too is Wales, following referenda on devolution. Northern Ireland also has devolved government as a result of the 'Good Friday Agreement'. These significant constitutional changes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have inevitably led to a debate about regional government in England. At the moment there are nine regions in England, although only London has an elected assembly. Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have been established and there are government offices in each of the regions. This embryonic structure of regional administration suggests a move towards greater regionalization, which is already being reflected in Britain's professional world.

Devolution means that for many library and information related matters it is the Scottish Parliament, or the Welsh Assembly, that governs in those nations rather than Westminster. In Northern Ireland, where the situation is a little more complex, the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure has recently initiated 'Tomorrow's Libraries', a review of the public library services in the province. At the time of writing (March 2002) the review has included a number of projects including surveys of library staff and users.

IFLA 2002 is very much a British event held in Scotland, and it is a constitutionally devolved but united information profession that welcomes you to Britain. The United Kingdom has a vast range of library and information organizations. Briefly, there are six legal deposit libraries each of which is entitled to receive, free of charge, a copy of every work published in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. These libraries are, the Bodleian Library Oxford, Cambridge University Library, the National Library of Scotland, the library of Trinity College Dublin, and the National Library of Wales. The sixth organization is the British Library, which has its own Legal



Figure 1. A mobile library from Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.

Deposit Office, with the Copyright Libraries Agency acting on behalf of the other five.

Britain's public library system has nearly 5000 branches and travelling libraries with a further 15,500 outlets in places such as homes for the elderly and youth centres. In addition there are 109 university library services, 68 Higher Education college library services, 6,400 secondary school libraries and 34 government libraries. Workplace libraries are to be found in commercial and industrial settings including the pharmaceutical, financial and legal sectors, and in non-commercial areas such as central government, health and voluntary organizations. There are also a variety of specialized libraries such as the National Library for the Blind and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Library. The National Health Service has around 500 libraries, while a library is a statutory requirement in Britain's 139 prisons. Increasingly, the skills of UK information professionals are also being used in a wide range of organizations in the private, public and voluntary sectors. They are, for instance,

behind most of the government departmental websites and local authority websites ... advising on information architecture, user behaviour and accessibility. (Hyams, quoted in Flood 2002)

The numbers given above, like others in this paper, should be taken as indicative because different counting arrangements can sometimes result in different figures. For example, many universities are federally based which means that each college may have its own library. In addition some universities also support faculty and or departmental libraries. Readers with an interest in statistics are strongly recommended to visit the website maintained by the Library and Information Statistics Unit (LISU). This publishes compilations of statistical information about libraries and reports of statistical surveys and research projects. The Institute of Public Finance (IPF) also produces an annual compilation of public library statistics. One of the fullest listings of services can be found in *Libraries in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland 2002*, which is available from Facet Publishing (formerly LA Publishing). It contains nearly 3000 entries. In addition to public library authorities and academic libraries, it also lists selected government, national and special libraries, schools and departments of library and information studies. The latest volume has a new section incorporating key national and regional agencies, professional organizations and other relevant bodies, with contact details and a brief description of their function.

### Joined Up Government, Joined-Up Thinking and Working Together

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is the government ministry with the major responsibility for library and information services. It has specific responsibilities for public libraries and the British Library. However, in line with the present administration's desire for 'joined up government', 'joined up thinking', and more recently 'cross cutting initiatives', the activities of other departments such as the Department for Education and Employment, and the Department for Trade and Industry which has particular responsibility for the UK's online information strategy, have increasing relevance for library and information services.

This 'joined up' approach can also be seen in the birth of Resource, the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries. This was formed in April 2000 by bringing together the Library and Information Commission and the Museums and Galleries Commission. The rationale was to emphasize the synergy that exists between the three domains. Resource has an annual budget of some GBP 22 million and is chaired by Lord Matthew Evans. Like the government, Resource also has a regional agenda with budgets for regional cross-domain projects. In March 2001 it awarded over GBP 450,000 to encourage further collaboration between museum, library and archive agencies in the English regions. In addition, there have been local cooperative projects that link the three domains. For example, the *From Script to Print to Hypertext* exhibition held at the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter brought together museums, the Record Office and public, academic and private libraries in the city.

At the same time the British Library's new strategy promises more partnerships and moves towards greater collaboration and coordination with other libraries. In particular the library plans to work more closely with public libraries and

other agencies in order to widen access and support lifelong learning. It also cooperates with the university sector to extend developments in higher education to other sectors. It is also involved with school libraries through such ventures as *Words Alive*, a literacy project, and *21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizen*. The latter is concerned with materials for teaching citizenship, a compulsory National Curriculum subject in UK schools from September of this year.

British librarians have always been, and continue to be, strong in terms of cooperation. Broughton (1999) lists over 200 such organizations in her handbook. A number of networks have existed for a considerable time. Public libraries first cooperated formally in 1919, when 39 of them agreed to help fund the Central Library for Students. Since then cooperation has encompassed Regional Library Bureaux, a national subject specialization scheme, Library and Information Plans (LIPS) and local cooperatives including academic, public and workplace libraries. 'Information North', for example started in 1931 as the Northern Regional Library System. Until last year, when it became subsumed as part of the new regional arrangements, it provided document delivery, research and development, and a regional information service and links to over 800 websites. The Sheffield Information Organization (SINTO) was founded a year later. Today, in the context of the developing regional agenda, it continues to promote cooperation, planning and partnerships, in particular setting up a cross-domain Single Regional Agency for Yorkshire.

The Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL) is a group of research libraries which seeks to 'promote, maintain and improve library resources for research in universities'. Also in the academic sector is the M25 Consortium of Higher Education Libraries. This was set up to foster cooperation between the 38 universities enclosed or served by the M25 London orbital motorway from which it takes its name. Two familiar networks, Electronic Access to Re-



Figure 2. The CILIP logo.

sources in Libraries (EARL) and the London and South East Region (LASER) came to an end in 2002, although the Earl name may continue through its proposed 'Triple e' (Earl, Electronic, Excellence) scheme to fund fellowships for professional development.

The unification of professional associations has been on the agenda for a number of years. In 1989 Professor Wilfred Saunders, the then President of the Library Association (LA), suggested that The Association for Information Management (Aslib), the Institute of Information Scientists (IIS) and the LA come together into a close working relationship. His vision was largely realized on April 1<sup>st</sup> this year when the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, CILIP, came into being. Essentially this new body is the result of unification between the (British) Library Association and the Institute of Information Scientists. Its 24,000 members include librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers drawn from all sectors of the profession, including national, public and academic libraries, the private and voluntary sectors, business and industry, science and technology. Its aims are:

to position the profession at the heart of the information revolution; develop and enhance the role and skills of all its members; present and champion those skills, together with new ones which will be acquired through continuing professional development; and ensure that individu-

als, enterprises and not for profit organizations have ready and timely access to the information they need. (LA Press Desk 2002)

For the first time in nearly two decades it is possible for British information professionals to make such statements with some degree of hope. The New Labour government has provided the profession with significant opportunities to develop services for the benefit of users. Over the past few years there has been an unprecedented public and political interest in library and information services. The government has demonstrated its commitment through its response to such seminal documents as *New Library; the People's Network* (1997), *Building the New Library Network* (1998), and numerous other reports.

*New Library* was described as

the most important document ever to be prepared on the UK public library service ... the best and perhaps the last chance for [librarians] to take [their] rightful place at the heart of the Information Society revolution. (Batt 1997).

In essence the report points to the need for public libraries to become active partners in the development of electronic networks, both as points of access and providers of content and services. *Building the New Library* made recommendations on how that vision was to be turned into reality. It advocated a rapid action programme to equip librarians with new skills, proposed a network based on the Internet, and put forward a framework for managing resources on the network and creating digital content. Many similar ideas could also be found in *Connecting the Learning Society: The National Grid for Learning* (Department for Education and Employment 1997). This stressed the importance of the Internet in supporting teaching, learning, training and administration and emphasized the impact on libraries brought about by the 'quality and quantity of new and existing information and knowledge'. A Green



Figure 3. *Libraries Change Lives: The London Borough of Merton's Refugee Resources Collection and Service.*



Figure 4. *Libraries Change Lives: Boox on the Move, Leeds.*

Paper, *The Learning Age*, focused on the economic, socio-political and individual advantages of life-long learning. (Department for Education and Employment 1998). While it was criticized for not clearly explaining the role of libraries, it was evident that the learning age would have to be supported by a library and information network that enabled access to the National Grid for Learning.

Government ministers in all four countries of the United Kingdom have stated that

Libraries contribute to four of this Government's most important policy objectives. They underpin education, providing essential support for school children, students and lifelong learners; they enhance public access to the world's storehouse of knowledge and information; they promote social inclusion ... and increasingly, they have a role to play in the modernization and delivery of public services. (Department for Culture Media and Sport 1998)



Figure 5. *Libraries Change Lives: A Youthbox graphic workshop, Kensal Library, London.*

### Combating Social Exclusion

Library and information services are recognized as contributing to government programmes. This is particularly true in terms of policies designed to combat social exclusion. From the beginning, Ministers in the new administration have been

determined to ensure that our society does not become divided into information haves and have-nots. Those who are socially disadvantaged, those with disabilities and those who otherwise cannot participate in education and training in the normal way must not be excluded from the information revolution that is upon us ... (Howarth 1998)

This is obviously a concern for public libraries and there are numerous examples of projects from that sector. Some of the best featured in the *Libraries Change Lives Awards*, and include the London Borough of Merton's Refugee Resources Collection, Leeds Libraries *Boox on the Move* project aimed at young people in care homes and justice institutions, and Lancashire County Council's Special Needs Support Service. Particular efforts have been made to involve minority

communities. For example in Devon the Islamic community was involved in an exhibition, *Discovering Islam in Devon*, which was produced in association with the BBC's *Islam UK* season. The exhibition was shown in Exeter Central Library and the city's Islamic Centre. In another venture, based in Gloucestershire, the Chinese, African Caribbean and other communities were profiled in a project called *Our Untold Stories*.

In his review of the social impact of public libraries Matarasso (1998) argues that

The principle of unquestioned inclusivity is kept alive today by the library service almost single-handedly.

While a few UK writers (see, for example, Harris 1998) have questioned the extent of the library's role, Panizzi's original aim that the poorest scholar in the land should have as much access as the richest person in the kingdom still holds true today. It is perhaps a particular role of Britain's public libraries to redistribute the wealth of information, ideas and works of imagination, but colleagues in academic and workplace libraries have all responded to the challenges of social inclusion now raised generally in

our society, and more specifically in educational terms in the various reports dealing with lifelong learning.

### Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning is one of the key components of the government's programme. Britain's academic, public and school libraries have always been an integral part of education and self development but the government's mantra of 'education, education, education' has increased the emphasis on these services. In 1999 the Library and Information Commission set up a task force to advise Ministers on how cooperation between the education and public library sectors could be stimulated and improved in order to support lifelong learning. The subsequent report, *Empowering the Learning Community* (2000) contains examples of coordination and recommendations for action – recommendations that suggest cooperative arrangements, cross-sectoral funding and coordinated training programmes.

Lifelong learning has had an impact on all types of library service. From Scotland, Campbell (2000) describes the lifelong learning and other education services delivered by the Elgin Library Learning Centre, in Moray. This is a facility at the town library which offers over 1000 learning packages. Funded by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish University for Industry, the project is an example of cooperation, involving local councils, an enterprise collective, a college and a careers agency. In the East Midlands of England, the Derbyshire Learning and Technology Access (DELTA) service promotes lifelong learning and social inclusion by providing learning materials and ICT to people who would not otherwise have access to such facilities. The service includes a special 'story box' PC for young children, video conferencing and wireless technology on mobile libraries. Libraries have also worked closely with the BBC on various initiatives, undertaking activities and produc-

ing web pages to help the viewer go beyond the limits of a particular broadcast programme.

Increasingly, commercial organizations are placing an emphasis on the personal and professional development of their workforce. A survey of the top 250 UK companies, commissioned by the Library Association (Murphy 1998), revealed some excellent examples of what can be achieved when workplace libraries are involved in employee development schemes. They included an electronics company, a real estate service, and a chemical group. However, the overall picture in this sector was seen as mixed and some organizations were reported as 'under-using skills and services already present on site'.

In the North East of England the Libraries Access Sunderland Scheme (LASH) has demonstrated the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation. Support for lifelong learning has been improved as the result of formalized cooperation between the City's three major library services. This means that learners have free access to 3500 study places, e-mail, the Internet and a range of new technologies. Learners throughout the UK are helped by the UK Libraries Plus scheme. This enables part-time, distant and other learners to borrow from libraries close to where they live or work, and allows staff and full-time students to access each other's libraries for reference. Currently 106 university and higher education colleges are members of the scheme. Libraries of all kinds are part of a new partnership with Ufi Ltd. This is the organization that is developing the idea of a 'university for industry' through the creation of the *learn-direct* e-learning network. The Ufi Libraries Cluster is administered by a management group that includes representatives from all library sectors, Resource, and Ufi. Many types of library have become *learn-direct* centres. These provide people with opportunities to learn in places that offer an alternative to traditional academic settings. In addition to libraries, such centres can also be found in football clubs,

churches, railway stations and even public houses.

### Digitization

As a result of the government's emphasis on wider access and lifelong learning, significant funding has been made available to support digitization projects which improve access to library collections. The British Library is involved in the digitization of internationally important books and manuscripts. This includes the International Dunhuang Project (IDP) which is re-assembling, in a virtual environment, a dispersed, fragile and relatively inaccessible collection of 5<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist manuscripts held in China, France, Russia and the British Library itself.

In February of this year the library began digitizing Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The tales were the first printed book in English and the British Library's two copies are normally kept in strongrooms and shown only at rare exhibitions to handpicked scholars. As a result of the project they will soon be available to a potential audience of millions via the Internet. The library's previous digitization of the Gutenberg Bible resulted in a million hits in the first six months. In the words of a House of Commons Report, the aim is for

the British Library to become a universal resource rather than the preserve of a relatively small number of users on the site – a library for the many not just for the few. (House of Commons 2000)

In the academic library field there has been a steady stream of projects. The London School of Economics has a programme to digitize the Booth maps of London poverty at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while at the University of Kent a political cartoons collection has been successfully digitized. Another highly visual source, historic maps, has been the subject of a particularly important digital development. This project concerns the large-



Figure 6. Encouraging family reading at an All Books for Children session.

scale mapping of Great Britain from the 1840s to the 1990s and is the result of a cooperative venture between the Ordnance Survey and Landmark Information. As a result, more than 700,000 scanned images will be made available to the public through libraries. The project has conserved delicate originals, and provided a key resource for local historians.

Images from local studies collections, especially photographs, have proved very popular material for digitization. A particular and moving example comes from Northern Ireland, where the Western Education and Library Board have produced a CD-ROM, *One Day in August*. Using funding from the Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) the library service purchased computer equipment to store and manipulate archive material in order to make it accessible to the public.

Telling the story of the Omagh bomb tragedy of 1998, the presentation is in multimedia format and complements the archive material stored in the library headquarters. The archive contains cards, reports, minutes, photographs, books of condolence, press and broadcast coverage including video footage. A quite different project is de-



Figure 7. Boxing coach Brendan Ingle reading to nursery-age children at the launch of the Parson Cross/Southey Bookstart project.

scribed by Draycott (2000) in an assessment of the early stages of the programme to digitize transparencies and negatives from the Wellcome Trust's medical library.

As digital records increase, so too do the problems of preserving the hardware and software that will permit long-term access to them. A Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) involving, among others, the British Library and the Public Record Office, has been given the task of producing an action plan to ensure that, in an age of changing formats and short lived websites, the digital information that is produced today is not lost to current and future generations.

## Books and Reading

As the marvellous poem by Ted Hughes, that prefaced the *New Library* report, helped remind us, even in the age of information and communication technologies, librarianship is primarily concerned with bringing information, ideas and works of imagination to people. Books and reading continue to be an integral part of that activity. For a brief period, especially in the

1980s and early 1990s, the range of stock available in many UK public libraries was narrowly populist. This was, in part, the result of a reduction in public sector budgets, which often led to reduced book funds, and the market orientation of the times which frequently caused performance to be judged in terms of book issues. At that time public librarians,

in a welter of management speak, ICT and strategic plans, possibly may just have forgotten the importance of reading and its development. (Conway 2001).

However, reading and reading development is now very much back on the professional and political agenda, and it is increasingly promoted in school and public libraries.

In many places reading development has been linked with issues of social inclusion. In Leicestershire, a project called *Fathers* has involved prison inmates in their children's early reading experiences. Another prison-based project, this time in Nottinghamshire, seeks to help prisoners support their children's reading development. This is based on a partnership between Launch Pad (a library development agency), East Midlands Arts, and Marks and Spencer. Another High Street name, Boots, is also involved with literacy through the *Books for Babies* scheme. This has led to more than 15,000 babies being registered with local libraries. There is a kind of continuity here, and older British readers will recall the Boots Booklovers Libraries, a commercial, shop-based library service that was a feature of Britain in the 1950s and 1960s.

A number of other initiatives reflect this revival of interest in reading. *Branching Out*, for instance, was a national reading development project instigated by the Society of Chief Librarians and funded by the Arts Council of England. Managed by Opening the Book Ltd it involved 33 library authorities and the National Library for the Blind. It was in part a staff development

initiative, but also included a number of projects aimed at extending the pleasures of reading to a wider audience. A project called *Book Forager* attracted a good deal of media attention, not least because Britain's increasingly downmarket newspapers found it helped people to seek out a 'sexy' read. In partnership with Applied Psychology Research it resulted in a website which enabled a potential reader to select a book which matched her or his requirements. The web page

offers an easy way to find the kind of reading you are looking for. ... For example if you want a happy read click on the Happy/Sad bar. ... The best matches will be given first... Forager is also able to start from an individual book title and search for mood matches. (Book Forager website)

The National Library for the Blind has developed its own version of the scheme which will enable users to order titles online. New technology was also a feature of the *Electronic Promotion of Stock in Libraries* project (EPOSIL). Based on Wandsworth Libraries in London, this was an experimental initiative which aimed to use interactive multimedia software to enhance stock promotion displays.

The National Year of Reading which ran from September 1998 to August 1999 was judged to be a success overall with public libraries organizing a large number of local programmes while at the same time building and developing partnerships with a variety of organizations. Reading-inspired creative partnerships have also been formed through *Books Connect*. Financed by a lottery award, nine public libraries in the East Midlands organized a range of arts activities which use books and reading as a starting point. These activities have included themed promotions linked to cinema, gallery and theatre programming, and library-based artists.

Another source of funding, the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Reader Development Programme, was first established in 2000. It is de-

signed to encourage libraries to reach out to new audiences. It is intended to support projects which enhance libraries' traditional strength in promoting reading as a pleasurable activity. Sixteen projects were awarded grants in 2001. These included: *A Touch More*, a major campaign led by the National Library for the Blind to persuade people with visual impairment to use their public library; *The Vital Link*, a basic skills project in which library authorities are running a variety of programmes to help people who have problems with reading and writing; and the continuation of a bibliotherapy project in which librarians and doctors have joined forces to prescribe a course of novels for patients suffering from a range of illnesses.

A 1999 survey showed that over 90 percent of library authorities had established or were considering setting up reading groups. (Toyne and Usherwood 2001). Such groups were widely recognized as an aid to reader development, although some authorities reported difficulties in sustaining them. Scothern's (2000) research suggested that staff training and sponsorship were key considerations in this process. In a different setting, the *Inside Books* project resulted in reading groups in a number of prisons.

Since 1979 authors in the United Kingdom have, through the Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme, been able to receive payments for loans of their books from public libraries. The scheme makes use of sophisticated computer technology which, with the cooperation of public libraries, tracks loan data. Authors are paid at the rate of 2.67 pence per loan and are eligible for payment if their loan total reaches a minimum of GBP 5.00. There is a payment limit of GBP 6,000. It is important to note that this funding comes from central government and not from libraries. Since the scheme started it has distributed nearly GBP 71 million to authors. For the first time this year European writers will qualify for payment under the UK scheme. The scheme has been extended with a



Figure 8. Music in Braille at the National Library for the Blind.

view to encouraging the spread of the principle and the development of reciprocal arrangements with other countries having a PLR. The system is currently being reviewed and it is possible that audio and e-books will be included in the future.

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### The LIS Workforce

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It is clear from the matters described above that new skills are required from staff working in rapidly changing LIS organizations. In addition, established skills are being used in new circumstances. *Building the New Library* concluded that all 'public library staff would need to possess certain core skills and competences'. These skills should encompass expertise to support learning, enhance public access to information, support reader development, and assist access to public services. In many ways they reflect findings from the academic library field where the Fielden Report highlighted similar areas, namely navigating electronic databases, access to electronic texts, staff attitudes and teaching and learning skills. (John Fielden Consultancy, 1993)

A report from the Association of University Teachers (2001) indicated that academic librarians are required to work alongside teach-

ers as educators. They are involved in teaching IT skills, preparing teaching materials, and serving on academic committees. They are complementary to academic staff, helping students to evaluate as well as access information. In order to cope with these responsibilities, some library staff have enrolled for PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) programmes. Pinfield (2001), based on his experience at Nottingham University and other academic libraries, has described how the job of subject librarians in the UK is changing. They are adopting new roles, selecting electronic library materials, undertaking more information skills training and having far greater involvement in the implementation of educational technology.

Another report (Usherwood et al 2001) suggests that a personnel time bomb is ticking away in the UK public library sector. It identified particular concerns with regard to staff recruitment, retention and leadership. It showed that less than a third of current chief librarians were confident that they have staff who are equipped to succeed to senior posts. A further piece of research (Cookman and Streatfield 2001) indicated that the use of volunteers is now a common practice in UK public libraries, although less so in London. The present government is encouraging





Figure 9. Demonstrating an automatic reading machine for visually-impaired people at the Drury Lane Library, Wakefield.

volunteering. In February 2001 the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised GBP 120 million for volunteers in public services.

Elliott (2001), in a special issue of *Inform*, warned that a job for life was no longer the norm and urged information professionals in the special library sector to prepare for portfolio careers. Writing about career planning for the sector, Blair (2000) urged information professionals to take control of their own personal development and to look for opportunities in areas not previously considered. Others expressed concern about the needs of solo and freelance librarians. The Library Association Special Libraries Committee has sought ways to meet the special needs of this group, members of which are particularly prevalent in the health and construction industries.

TFPL Ltd (1999) identified new skills required by information professionals working in 'knowledge management environments'. They concluded

that while the information profession now has the potential to make a significant impact in corporate environments, there are

significant changes and developments to be made.

Knowledge management (KM) is an issue that raises strong feelings among UK professionals, and the announcement that the British Standards Institution is to attempt to develop a standard for it was met with some disdain, one eminent professor writing that he

almost fell off [his] chair with laughter – that this august body which normally devotes itself to useful tasks, should fall victim to a management consultancy fad is sadly humorous. (Wilson 2001)

On the other hand the Library Association has organized a number of KM seminars and its Special Adviser observes 'a change in perceptions about what librarians can contribute to organizational objectives' and has been 'actively promoting LIS professionals as part of the KM core team' (Swamp KM E2 2001). The Chair of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) is of the opinion that

KM is starting to move away from the technical departments and into libraries where people

really know how to organize knowledge. In the big city law firms, there seems to be a realization that KM is not something you can just buy in like a piece of software, but requires a fundamental change in the culture and processes of the organization to make it work. (Stevenson 2002)

The profession has also been divided by the introduction of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in information and library services. These are available at five levels, with levels 4 and 5 claimed to be the equivalent of an undergraduate and postgraduate qualification respectively. NVQs are essentially competence-based qualifications which pay relatively little attention to theory. As such, while they have had their defenders in the sector, most library educators have been critical, arguing that although they may prove popular with employers on tight budgets, the effect will be the 'de-professionalizing [of] whole areas of work [and] the emergence of the jobber, who knows how but not why ...'. (Muddiman 1995)

To some extent the workforce question is coloured by a developing debate about de-professionalization. Recent statistics from LISU suggest a declining number of professional librarians per head of population in the UK. In addition almost half of the respondents in a study of public libraries said they would appoint a person without a professional qualification to a professional post. (Usherwood et al 2001). From the academic sector there have been occasional reports of people without professional qualifications being appointed to professional library posts. However, in many university libraries, the debate centres on convergence between computing and library services. Writers have observed the different attitudes of different sections of staff. Garrod and Sidgreaves (1998), for example, report that,

Library staff ... saw their computing colleagues as ... being primarily concerned with IT sys-



tems rather than the services provided to users ... some computing staff described library staff as clinging to outmoded notions of professionalism, and being over-zealous in helping students, who needed to be encouraged to become more independent as learners.

### Accountability, Inspections and Audits

In common with many British institutions, library and information organizations have faced an increasing number of inspection regimes. The previous Conservative government's 1991 *Citizen's Charter* set out what people should expect from their public services. It indicated the need for standards, choice, consultation and value for money. The initiative saw the proliferation of customer charters and contracts in public libraries, and in 1994, in response to a Ministerial challenge, the Library Association issued a *Charter for Public Libraries* followed by a *Model Statement of Standards* designed to help local authorities develop standards appropriate to their local circumstances.

The same period also saw significant changes in higher education with greater emphasis on assessment, choice and competitiveness. This sector was not immune from the Charter movement, with the University of London's Birkbeck College and other academic libraries demonstrating that they were up to the mark. (Bevan and Dolphin 2001). In addition, many UK students now have to pay their own fees and are becoming more forceful in demanding 'value for money'. Internal university quality procedures which provide formal channels for student feedback, comment, and complaint have also increased the pressure for 'quality' and accountability. School libraries receive visits from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and other inspection agencies.

Many of the Conservatives' ideas, if not always the names, have been



Figure 10. H.R.H The Princess Royal celebrating the Charter Centenary of the Library Association, 1998. With her, L. to R.: Ross Shimmmon (LA Chief Executive), Chris Smith (Culture Secretary), Bob Usherwood (LA President, 1998).



Figure 11. The coin commemorating 150 years of public library legislation.

sustained by the Blair (New Labour) government. The concepts of 'Best Value' in local government, and the Quality Assurance Agency's Subject Reviews in the university sector have had considerable implications for library and information services. 'Best Value' represents a strategy for ensuring local government provides high quality services which meet users' needs at the lowest cost. Adverse reports by Best Value inspectors have resulted in the 'early retirement' of some Chief Librarians and in one instance private consultants were called in, albeit on a temporary basis, to run a public library service

which was described by the inspectors as 'poor will not improve'. Since 1998 all English public library authorities have been required to produce annual library plans that include reviews of past performance and strategies and targets for the current and future years. The DCMS monitors the quality of these annual plans. In Wales each library authority is required to submit a three year library plan to the National Assembly.

Academic libraries have been assessed as part of the series of Subject Reviews conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

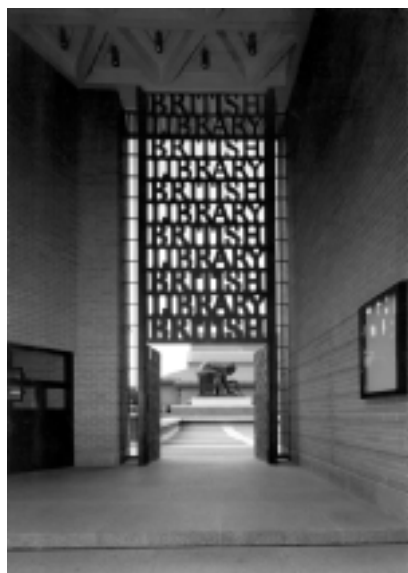


Figure 12. The British Library's gateway to knowledge.

Over the past eight years the quality of teaching and learning provision in UK universities has been monitored by independent assessors undertaking indepth reviews of every academic discipline. A QAA Subject Review Inspection grades a university department on six aspects of provision. One of these is 'learning resources'. Library services are included under this heading. Specifically reviewers have to consider if the library services are:

available, accessible and appropriate in terms of:

- the requirements of the curriculum, the teaching, learning and assessment strategy and the intended learning outcomes
- the book and periodical stock, directed learning materials, study space and other learning support activities
- the arrangements for student induction, opening hours and user support?

Is there effective liaison between the subject staff and library services? (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2000)

It has been argued that an over-emphasis on inspection and accountability represents a lack of trust, and a necessity to constantly check up on the behaviour of professional groups. Of course those

in receipt of public money must be accountable, but many of the current regimes do appear to take this to needless extremes. As the Chairman of Resource has observed, they threaten

the quality of our public services. As Christopher Frayling once put it: excess accountability is like pulling a plant out of its pot every day to check its roots and then being surprised when it withers and dies. (Evans 2001)

There are mixed signals regarding the extent to which the present government wishes to reduce this bureaucratic overload of inspections. At the time of writing, an evaluation of Best Value is underway, and the QAA system of Subject Review is now generally regarded as flawed. However, while changes are promised for the future, there are indications that some Ministers are concerned that the planned 'lighter touch' will be insufficiently rigorous to ensure public accountability.

This increased emphasis on the managerial accountability of public services has resulted in, or at least coincided with, a variety of official and semi-official statements, which make explicit what users can expect from a modern library and information service. For example, government-sanctioned public library standards for England were published in February 2001. There are nineteen standards covering such things as access, ICT, staff, and stock. The Welsh Public Library Standards followed these in October of the same year. These covered much the same ground as the English version but include a specific standard on Welsh language provision, and also set a target for free Internet access at every service point by the end of 2002. Prior to the publication of the standards the only official national guidance for local authorities responsible for library services was provided by the 1964 *Public Libraries and Museums Act*, which stated that they should provide 'a comprehensive and efficient library service for all

persons desiring to make use thereof'. This was interpreted quite differently by different authorities and resulted in considerable variations in funding and performance.

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## Marketing

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It is probably fair to say that the UK library and information world has not had a particularly strong track record in marketing activities, although some organizations have proved to be better than others. The situation is now much improved. At the national and political level the Library Association has certainly become a more effective lobbying organization over the past decade. Evidence of this new political awareness is to be seen in its recent pamphlet, *Ambitions for Britain? Library and Information Issues for Labour's Second Term* (2001). This is a briefing document for practitioners which aims to help them

make connections between their work and, perhaps, more unfamiliar parts of Government policy.

The association has also been active in Europe, lobbying Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and others on LIS issues such as the recent European Directives on intellectual property rights.

In a different context, the 1998 centenary celebration of the Library Association's Royal Charter was a triumph, culminating in a reception at the British Library at which Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, presented medals to 100 members, honoured as representatives of those who had served the profession well since 1898.

In 2000, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of public library legislation was marked by a special coin struck by the Royal Mint. Less high profile, but equally important if not more so, is the fact that the Association has had representatives on numerous government and other official bodies. These have ranged from the advisory body on the National

Year of Reading, via numerous educational initiatives, to the government's Foresight Programme which considers societal issues and enterprise opportunities in future technology.

*Workplace Libraries 99* was a successful campaign aimed at raising the profile of library and information professionals in that area. Working with a PR agency the campaign was designed to tell people what workplace libraries are, and workplace librarians can do. In recent years the Library Association has made particular efforts to promote this sector. For example, LA staff recently organized Innovation Day, an event concerned with science in the workplace to mark the beginning of National Science Year. The indications are that CILIP will continue to promote

the role that information people can play ensuring industry 'realises and releases' (the workforce campaign strapline) the value of its resources ... [working] in partnership with a wide range of organizations and people. (Rees-Jones 2002)

Promotional partnerships are being forged in other areas too. For example, increasingly bookshops are permitting libraries to borrow marketing materials through Opening the Book, the reader development company. More generally, innovative library and information marketing initiatives are recognized through the annual Library Association and Emerald Public Relations and Publicity Awards.

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### Education and Research

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Although the term now rarely appears in their titles, there are seventeen of what most of the profession still refers to as 'library schools' in the UK. Johnson (2000) has described the development of the British Association for Information and Library Education and Research (BAILER) which facilitates staff development and informa-



Figure 13. A library at the heart of the community: the Peckham Public Library.

tion exchange between the member schools. A more recent, and somewhat broader, grouping, the Learning Teaching and Support Network – Information and Computer Sciences (Itsni-ics) aims to be an information and advice resource for academic practitioners and to promote pedagogic innovation and best practice to enhance learning, teaching and assessment.

In terms of assessment, many of Britain's LIS departments have recently been subjected to a QAA Subject Review as described above. All of the schools reviewed by the QAA were found to have teaching that was 'satisfactory' with most being rated as excellent. The agency has also established benchmarks for the discipline at undergraduate level. These reflect a wide subject field but not as broad as the reality, where, in total, the schools are covering everything from cheminformatics, via electronic publishing, to community librarianship. In fact most programmes in librarianship per se are now at postgraduate level. Many programmes in UK schools are accredited by the major professional bodies and prior to the birth of CILIP the Library Association and the Institute of Information Science had developed joint accreditation criteria.

LIS Departments are also graded via a well-established national Research Assessment Exercise. Under this, the quality of research undertaken by staff in every academic subject in every university is independently assessed by a panel of international experts, none of whom examines the work of their own department. The most recent results were announced in December 2001. The LIS Departments at the University of Sheffield (5\*A), City University (5A), and Loughborough University (5B) were ranked in the top two grades of 5\* and 5. These grades are only given to Departments whose research is judged as having an international reputation for excellence.

It is difficult to estimate the total amount that is spent on research and related activities. There are a number of funders including Resource and the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB). In addition there is a considerable amount of 'hidden research' that is undertaken by practitioners in the day-to-day management of services. Resource, following some discussion and a major survey, has tended to concentrate on research that is policy-based. The research agenda of the field is appropriate to the work of a number of the research



Figure 14. Stunning views all round at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library.

councils (particularly the Economic and Social Research Council) in addition to the AHRB, and there is some danger that it can fall between these various stools. The Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) is an independent professional body that seeks to raise the profile of LIS research via promotion of research methodologies and results, awarding prizes for student dissertations and through its journal, *Library and Information Research News*.

At a time when so much emphasis is being placed on quality, standards, and accountability, it should not come as a surprise that the UK research world is spending time assessing the value and impact of organizations. In *Beyond Book Issues* Matarasso (1998) reviewed library-based projects entered for the Library Association Community Initiative Award, assessed the extent to which they have produced social benefits and sought to identify factors which lead to success. Eve and Brophy (2000) have reported on the VITAL (Value and Impact of IT Access in Libraries) research project which aimed to assess methodologies for providing evidence on the role public libraries have played in providing ICT services to the public. The Centre for the Public Library and Information in Society (CEPLIS) at Shef-

field University has undertaken a number of projects based on social audit methodologies. These place an emphasis on 'outcomes'. Morris, Hawkins and Sumsion (2000) have adopted a different approach, focusing on ways of quantifying the economic impact of public library services. LISU at Loughborough University has also undertaken a number of important surveys providing statistical data on accountability, efficiency and value for money.

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), which aims to provide a high quality national network structure for the UK higher education and research councils, was responsible for the UK Electronic Libraries Programme (eLib) Although officially regarded as development, eLib included a variety of projects that many would regard as research. These included work on architectural issues in digital libraries, virtual union catalogues, copyright, preservation and hybrid libraries. A number of UK LIS departments are also developing research agendas under the banner of informatics. These include community informatics, educational informatics, social informatics and libraries, information and learning. These focus on areas such as e-learning, information literacy and the role of library and information

services in networked learner support.

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### Libraries must also be Buildings

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The British Library's new building at St Pancras in London has been fully operational for over three years, and despite some criticism prior to its opening, it is now acclaimed by architectural commentators and by the people who use it. Designed by Sir Colin St John Wilson, it is the largest publicly-funded building constructed in the last century – and, so far, in this one – in the United Kingdom. It has a floor space of around 100,000 square metres and the deepest basements in London. These provide shelving for 12 million books. There are eleven reading areas, three exhibition galleries, a bookshop, a conference centre with a large auditorium and full catering facilities. In the heart of the building is The King's Library, which is housed in a six storey 17-metre glass walled tower.

Another library building to receive architectural acclaim is the new public library in Peckham, London. This won the Royal Institute of British Architects' Stirling prize in 2001. Its featured 'pods' make it a spectacular new landmark, placing imagination, information and learning at the heart of its community.

The Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, which opened in 2001, has also attracted much attention. It has a number of innovative features including an 'Express' section designed to serve people who want a popular item quickly, and an electronic guiding system to help users locate subjects through touch screens. It also houses the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Memorial Library founded in memory of the American service men stationed in Norfolk during the Second World War.

More innovative design is evident at the new Stratford (London) public library, which makes use of

strong colour and graphics. A contrasting approach is to be found in another library in London's East End. The recently opened Women's Library is housed in a former washhouse. The architect wanted it to be 'a place of calm, order and contemplation and the space to be definite and solid' (quoted in Irving 2002). It makes use of a range of natural materials, such as American oak, and black steel along with warm red brick exteriors.

The new Sackler Library, the first major Oxford university library to be built since 1964, contains five libraries under one roof. Neo classical in style, it is round, to echo local landmarks like the Sheldonian and famous academic libraries such as those at Leeds and Manchester. A massive reconstruction has been undertaken at the Lionel Robbins Building, a former W.H. Smith warehouse in London's Aldwych, which now houses the library of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Although it will not be a legal requirement until 2004, alterations to buildings in all sectors are being made to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. In Cambridgeshire recent public library design has emphasized accessibility for all, while in the university sector, the Quality Assurance Agency has established a code of conduct with regard to disability.

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### Paying for it All

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UK local authorities spend in the region of GBP 850 million a year on public library services. University and Higher Education Libraries cost around GBP 417 million a year. LISU reports that total public library spending rose by 4.5 percent in 2000-01 and predicts a greater rise of 6.6 percent in 2001-02. The National Lottery contributes to the library service via the New Opportunities Fund (NOF). The government gave GBP 200 million to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) to promote community access to life-long learning. This included GBP 20 million to train public library



Figure 15. Exciting architecture at LSE's Lionel Robbins Building.

staff in ICT skills. GBP 120 million has been allocated to the People's Network initiative in order to install ICT learning centres connected to the Internet in all public libraries by 2002. In addition, a gift of over USD 4 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has helped establish information technology learning centres in public libraries in some of Britain's most deprived communities.

Much of the new money available to public librarians, such as that from the DCMS Wolfson initiative, involves them in preparing costed proposals as part of a competition for limited funds. For many this 'bidding culture' has become a way of life with 96 percent of libraries making bids in the last three years. Some concern has been expressed that smaller library authorities are losing out in this process because they do not have the resources or expertise to mount successful bids. There have been many successful projects but questions are beginning to be raised about their continued funding. Others maintain that too few of the funded projects are fully integrated into mainstream services.

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### Where Are We Now?

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To quote from the respected newspaper, *The Independent*, recent years have seen 'an end to the doldrums that libraries found themselves in during and after the Thatcher years'. (Irving 2002). The comparison with Thatcher is apposite given that recently released Cabinet papers show that Margaret Thatcher's first recorded intervention as a cabinet minister was to propose charges for borrowing library books. In 2002 there are real reasons for hope and optimism. There are, of course, still some tensions, unresolved questions, and a few disappointments. For example, some fear that what is perceived as the largely cultural agenda of Resource does not accurately reflect the full potential of the library and information world. They warn that it should not be allowed to crowd out other possible alliances. There is also a tension between those who regard information as a right, indeed as 'the fourth right of citizenship', and those who see it as a commodity to be bought and sold. On the surface at least it is sometimes difficult to see how the

government's concern with social inclusion can be squared with its free market ideas vis-à-vis e-commerce, business and industry. In library education and elsewhere there is a tension between requests to produce 'generic librarians' and increasing demands for specialization.

Other issues are raised by devolution and regionalism. It has been argued (Smith 2001) that

as yet there is no clear view on what should be planned and delivered nationally, and what is best delivered regionally and how local initiatives and services can meet their own objectives as well as those of the wider regional and national agendas.

A Policy Advisory Group set up by the LA argues that

Regionalism and devolution are at the root of some fragmentation of LIS specific expertise both at a government level and within local authorities and other institutions ... [it is] ... A landscape [that] sets fresh challenges and offers new opportunities.

So too do Britain's increasing constitutional and professional links with Europe. The Library Association has appointed a European Adviser to provide UK practitioners with information on European matters. As Ward (2002) writes

the precedence of EU law over the domestic legislation of member states has meant that its influence is nowadays impossible to ignore within a legal or business library in any of the 15 member states.

Davies (2000) has discussed the implications of the European Court of Human Rights and the proposals in the UK Freedom of Information Bill. The latter has met with some criticism and although it has now received Royal assent its implementation is likely to be delayed until 2005 because of fears that it will not be possible to meet demands. Others have been con-

cerned at possible tensions between freedom of information and data protection.

Britain's library and information services, then, are facing a number of possibly contradictory demands. These are technological, political, cultural and economic. Such concerns can surface in a very practical way. For instance, it is sometimes argued that book budgets have been squeezed as a result of the pressure put on libraries to provide ICT services and materials. At the same time there has been a reluctance to engage such issues at a philosophical level. Like the present author, visitors from overseas may be puzzled by a strangely anti-intellectual, anti-professional agenda that sometimes surfaces in the UK library and information world. This sits oddly with the potential and real importance of its contribution to British society and beyond.

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### Conclusion

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Inevitably this has been to some extent a personal selection of themes and examples, but it is one that attempts to reveal the inspiration and the facts, and occasionally the attitudes, that are British Librarianship. It has tried to reflect what a broadsheet journalist has,

in an understated way, described as

a period of cautious optimism ... The word renaissance is being whispered ever so quietly, among the stacks and shelves. (Sweet 2002)

In what is an historic year for IFLA, and for the British library world, it is perhaps appropriate to look back to the resolution passed at the first meeting of the then newly incorporated Library Association in 1898. At that time it was resolved:

That the fellows and the members of The Library Association gratefully accept the Royal Charter of Incorporation, which Her Majesty the Queen has most graciously conferred upon them, and regard it as at once a gracious recognition of the work accomplished by the Association, and an incentive to still greater efforts in the future for the promotion of its objects.

Today the style of language, the Queen, and the Association may be different but the sentiments remain the same. The future efforts will be no less as the British library and information world embraces the challenges and opportunities of the new millennium.



Figure 16. A magical world for little people: the Sunshine Library, Wakefield.

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DCMS: <http://www.culture.gov.uk/>

Institute of Information Scientists: <http://www.iis.org.uk/>

Library Association: <http://www.la-hq.org.uk/>

LISU: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dils/lisu/lisuhp.html>

LISU LIST 2001: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dils/lisu/list01/list01.html>

Resource: <http://www.resource.gov.uk/>

UK Public Libraries page: <http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/harden/ukpublib.html>

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Figure 12. *The British Library's gateway*. Photo: The British Library.

Figure 14. *Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library*. Credit: Bob Usherwood.

Figure 15. *Exciting architecture at LSE*. Photo: London School of Economics.

Figure 16. *A magical world*. Photo courtesy of Sunshine Library, Wakefield.

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