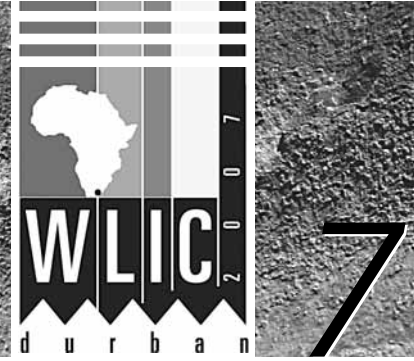


IFLA EXPRESS



WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS ▶ South Africa, 19–23 August 2007

Thursday 23 August 2007



Delegates eagerly flocked around the stalls exhibiting jewelry and other local artifacts which could be purchased as souvenirs and gifts.

IFLA receives \$1m Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant to Support Work for Libraries

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) announced the receipt of a USD \$1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative. The funding will support IFLA's work to strengthen awareness of the important role libraries play in developing the information society.

Libraries enable people to take part in the information society, to develop their knowledge and their opportunities. Many libraries provide free access to online information found on computers connected to the Internet, which allows people to improve their economic and social well-being.

As IFLA demonstrated during

its active participation in the World Summit of the Information Society, libraries are key elements in the provision of free access to information and support for freedom of expression. Current IFLA president Alex Byrne and incoming president Claudia Lux expressed their gratitude for the foundation's support which will assist IFLA to continue to promote these priorities. The longstanding co-operation between IFLA and the foundation has now moved to a new level in which the organizations will further promote the development of libraries in the world.

"We are pleased to support IFLA's work to promote libraries as important centers for learning and information. Our

partnership with IFLA will help more public libraries provide free public access to computers and the Internet, which can provide people with opportunities to enhance their education, find jobs, build businesses, and exchange ideas with people around the world," said Martha Choe, director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative.

Each year at IFLA's annual meeting of active librarians, the World Library and Information Congress, the foundation presents its annual Access to Learning Award. The award honors innovation in providing free access to online information in public libraries or related institutions.

Guided by the belief that

every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people - especially those with the fewest resources - have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, the Foundation is led by CEO Patty Stonesifer and co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

Council Meeting today! Hall 1AB from 15.00–18.00

AGENDA

1. Opening by the President, Alex Byrne
2. Appointment of Tellers
3. Establishment of a Quorum
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Seoul, 24 August 2006
6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year
7. Presentation of the Annual Report by the Secretary General
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts by the Treasurer.
9. Presentation of the report by the President, Alex Byrne, and hand-over to the new President, Claudia Lux
10. Address by the President, Claudia Lux
11. Motions and Resolutions (see notes below)
12. Closure of the Council meeting by the President.



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The Aquatic Commons: A New Digital Repository for International Aquatic Information

The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) announce the launch of the Aquatic Commons as part of the solution to providing access to local content and knowledge in the aquatic sector. The Aquatic Commons will facilitate the exchange of scientific research

and management information related to the world's marine/aquatic environments by providing a searchable Web-accessible repository for digital documents. The repository runs on EPrints software and is housed at the Florida Center for Library Automation. It is managed by the Aquatic Commons board appointed by IAMSLIC and supported by IAMSLIC and the FAO FishCode Programme.

Why another repository? The members of IAMSLIC recognize a need to offer repository services where local, stable IT support is lacking. We also sense a desire to provide access to

legacy collections as well as the sector's 'grey literature', material that have never been widely accessible. This valuable traditional knowledge, local scientific information and government reports can enhance science research and inform natural resource decision making. It is estimated that 80% of scientific knowledge is not documented, but resides in the heads and files cabinets of our scientists and local experts. The Aquatic Commons provides a means to get that knowledge into the mainstream hence demonstrating its value to the greater aquatic community.

Recurring themes at the

WLIC 2007 conference include how to provide access to local content and what are new models for providing information. The Aquatic Commons is one example that may do both.

For more information, please contact Jean Collins of the FAO Fisheries Library (jean.collins@fao.org) or the web site <http://www.iamslc.org/index.php/section=147>.

If you are interested in discussing this project at the conference please contact Janet Webster who is in attendance (janet.webster@oregonstate.edu)

IFLA: ADVOCACY POSITION CREATED AT HEADQUARTERS

At its meeting on 17 August the Governing Board decided to create a position of Senior Policy Adviser at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. This decision forms part of the Governing Board's

strategy to develop IFLA's advocacy capacity.

The person appointed to this position will be expected to undertake and coordinate the Federation's international advocacy work of education, relationship building and interventions in relation to the strategic advocacy themes. The priority of these themes may vary from time to time, but

themes currently emphasized are the IFLA President's advocacy focus, "Libraries on the Agenda," and the role of the library as an agency of inclusion in the 'Knowledge Society', freedom of access to information, freedom of expression, copyright, and equitable access regimes. This is an exciting opportunity to represent library interests and to

influence international policy developments.

The position will be advertised shortly. In the mean time further information can be obtained from the IFLA Secretariat at the Congress, or from the Secretary General at IFLA Headquarters, The Hague, Netherlands, after the Congress.

Access to HIV/AIDS Information in African Libraries

A report by Nompumelelo Magwaza, journalism student at the DUT

FAIFE in conjunction with Health and Biosciences libraries joined in a discussion on how the access to information on HIV/AIDS in African Libraries can be better utilized. Professor Kingo Mchombu of the University of Namibia in Windhoek, Namibia, gave an overview of how important knowledge management is in libraries and communities. He emphasized that indigenous knowledge can help in educat-

ing about HIV/AIDS. Information technology, both old and new, is not knowledge management in itself, but a tool used for the improvement of information dissemination. Kendra Albright of the University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK, focused on HIV/AIDS information seeking and healthcare communication in sub-Saharan Africa. She quoted statistics from UNAIDS that 38.6 million people, from children to adults, are HIV infected in sub-Saharan countries. She highlighted Uganda as an example of how education on HIV/AIDS was used to decrease the pandemic.

Mchombu commented that Uganda could be used as an example but that we should

remember that every country has its own unique needs and opportunities. Albright went on to say that culture should never be left out in health campaigns, especially on issues like HIV/AIDS. She mentioned some issues to consider when drawing up an HIV/AIDS campaign:

- The material used should have a specific target audience and should include cultural practices; and
- that material should be available in variety of languages including different forms of media, such as radio, theatre and television. Martha Terry, a Senior Librarian at the University of Cuba, emphasized the impact of education on the human mind.

"Education is a very important part of informing and changing how the human mind works," she said. She added that men and women should be given equal education on HIV/AIDS. "The information should not be focused on women only." The importance of traditional healers' knowledge on HIV/AIDS was discussed. Mchombu felt that traditional and conventional medical practitioners should build close working relationships in order to incorporate popular education on the matter. He remarked that African Universities are undertaking research on traditional medicine and that this knowledge could be used to purge HIV/AIDS from Africa.

Art Gallery Visit

The Durban Art Gallery on Tuesday welcomed the Art Libraries Section. Ms Jenny Stretton, Exhibitions Curator and Acting Director, and Ms Renu Rabilall, Librarian, gave a presentation of the Gallery and its Library to a group of around 40 delegates.

The Durban Art Gallery was

founded in 1892 when it received its first donation, a painting of Durban Bay by harbour engineer Cathcart William Methven. Since 1910 it has been located in City Hall. Over the past decades the focus has changed, and now the collections are representative of the art being produced in Southern Africa. The Gallery's primary concern today is collecting and exhibiting

traditional and contemporary South African art.

The visiting art librarians were very generously treated to tea and cake, and had a wonderful time exchanging experiences and widely expanding their knowledge of South African art and artists. One result of the visit is that the Gallery librarian has agreed to become a Corresponding Member of the Art Libraries

Section.

PS A tip to the Exhibitors at WLIC in Durban. Donate a PC to the Gallery Library which is without a functioning computer. Thereby you give a real boost to the library and also save on your shipping costs home. Please contact IFLA Headquarters at ifla@ifla.org or kerstin.assarsson-rizzi@raa.se who will be happy to put you in touch with the Librarian.

Win a free registration for IFLA 2008 in Québec, Canada!

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E-learning Discussion Group: library educators and practitioners collaboration for enhancing quality

E-learning presents new challenges for Schools of Librarianship and Information Sciences. It also impacts on library services in terms of their

provision of learning resources and reference services to support communities of users, creating increasing pressure for electronic and digital library services.

On Tuesday 21st, about 200 LIS educators and practitioners participated in a discussion of the E-learning DG, promoted by the Education and Training Section in collaboration with the Sections for Information Literacy, and Continuing Professional Development and Work Based Learning. The

speakers presented different perspectives on how e-learning contributes to LIS education and continuing professional development and its implications for the operation of library services.

The E-learning DG will provide a virtual forum to explore such topics as the adaptability of e-learning for less technologically developed countries, the capacity of library professionals to create communities of practice, inter-

working and collaboration between LIS schools, and in particular the potential role of libraries in enabling and supporting e-learning.

To become involved in the discussion, contact the E-learning DG convenors:

Anna Maria Tammaro
(annamaria.tammaro@unipr.it)
Sylvie Chevillotte
(sylvie.chevillotte@bvra.enssib.fr)
Ian Smith
(I.Smith@latrobe.edu.au)

RESOLUTION

To be discussed at the Council Meeting on Thursday 23 August, 15.00-18.00

GRANT MAKING AND THE INTERESTS OF IFLA

"Be it resolved that

Council confirms IFLA's long-standing policy that:

The Federation shall not participate or intervene in any way, including the publication or distribution of statements, in political campaigns on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office, and

The income or assets of the Federation shall not be distributed, or applied to the benefit of, any private person or

non-charitable organization other than (a) pursuant to the conduct of the grantee organization's charitable, scientific or educational activities; (b) as payment of reasonable compensation (including reimbursement of costs incurred) for services rendered; or (c) as payment of the fair market value of property or goods purchased by the Federation.

Council instructs the Governing Board to prepare amendments to IFLA's Statutes explicitly stating these limitations, and to submit them to Council for its approval no later than the Council meeting that will be held in Quebec City in August 2008."

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Geography and Map Libraries hosted a session devoted to mapping the African continent.

Mr. Joseph Njanguri, East View Cartographic in Kenya, spoke about the acquisitions challenges in getting maps in and about African countries. East View Cartographic (EVC) has offices in Nairobi (Kenya), Amman (Jordan), Moscow (Russia) and Jakarta (Indonesia). Njanguri spoke about the procurement efforts in African countries, the accomplishments, obstacles and the current status of the procurement efforts. He focused on Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Madagascar, Sudan and Mozambique. In Kenya, Njanguri stated that the ECV has in place a copyright and Reseller Agreement with the Survey of Kenya (SOK) where

Session on Geography and Map Libraries

*A report by Ayanda Kunene,
journalism student at the DUT*

the ECV has rights and ownership to some of the maps supplied by the SOK.

Njanguri mentioned that most of the African countries are very cagey when it comes to releasing geographical information because of security reasons. "In Sudan, the accomplishments have been very minimal and the reason for this is that the country is heavily militarised," he said. Njanguri noted that there are no further plans at present to do more work in Sudan until the current state of affairs improves.

Mr. Peter Ocholla, Department of Hydrology from the University of Zululand presented a paper on Natural Resources and Conflicts in Africa. Ocholla spelled out Africa's main resources which are: fauna and flora, inland fresh water and ocean water resources, mineral deposits, geomorphology and the atmosphere. "The importance of resources is that they offer foreign exchange, tourism, support life and livelihood," said Ocholla.

Ocholla said that some of the main reasons for conflict in

Africa could be attributed to poor governance and corruption. He touched on Zimbabwe and the current status by saying that the conflict in the country is not one of lack of resources but one of poor governance and a bad land redistribution plan. Ocholla then moved on to Nigeria and the Niger Delta by saying that although Nigeria is one of the worlds most oil-rich countries, with oil accounting for 40% of the country's GDP, it has nothing to show in terms of infrastructural development.

He added: "Recently there was a meeting to form a United States of Africa: how can a United States of Africa be formed when a simple thing such as sharing resources has not been solved?"

The Agricultural Libraries Session held on Tuesday afternoon was attended by over 70 delegates.

Dr. L.O Aina, Professor of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana in his paper 'Globalization and small-scale farming in Africa' said that globalization has not had any positive effect on rural communities in Africa. Due to several barriers such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of basic infrastructure etc. which hinders access to printed and electronic information. He has

Impact of globalization on small farmers worldwide: implications on information transfer

also presented another paper 'Impact of globalization on the information needs of farmers in Ghana' authored by Justin Chisenga of FAO Regional Centre in Africa, Accra. Both the papers pleaded for the establishment of Farmers Information Centres.

Dr. Deva E. Reddy, Associate Professor of Library Science,

Texas A&M University, United States in his presentation on the theme of the session viewed globalization as the integration of inputs and outputs, sharing of information and knowledge, and promulgation of rules governing such integration. He has highlighted the vital role of the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank in the

process of economic globalization. He brought out the positive and negative impact of corporate globalization on small farmers in developed and developing countries worldwide. Dr. Reddy stressed the need for providing timely information on the crops grown in all aspects such as seeds, soil testing, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, diagnostic services, post harvest operations and marketing of agricultural products. He said that everything else can wait but not agriculture.

At the Dutch speaking caucus IFLA delegates from the Netherlands and Flanders learned about Biblionef's activities in South Africa. Working for underprivileged children, Biblionef buys new books for libraries and schools in need. It also encourages local publishers, authors and illustrators to publish in many languages.

Dutch speaking caucus sponsors children's book about Nelson Mandela

On the occasion of Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday (2008), Biblionef would like to publish a children's book on this great man in the eleven official languages of South Africa, and hopefully also in braille and audiobook.

Spontaneously, the Dutch speaking library organizations agreed to sponsor this initiative, as an appropriate gesture at this IFLA congress in Durban. They hope their example will be followed by other IFLA delegates and libraries or associ-

ations to sponsor similar initiatives or help by buying books to donate to underprivileged children, thirsty for reading materials and authentic stories.

If you would like to learn more or to sponsor, you are most welcome to contact Jean Williams, director of Biblionef South Africa, through: www.biblionefsa.org.za

On Tuesday, 21 August 2007, recipients of the Access to Learning Award (ATLA) shared lessons and examples from their work.

The first speaker was Faith Chao, President of the Evergreen Education Foundation (ATLA 2004). She started training programmes for farmers, as well as book exhibitions and computer workshops. Future programmes include training librarians in the usage of databases as well as programmes such as the Pig Power Programme that will teach people to use pig manure to generate methane gas. In conclusion Chao had this to say, "Libraries will become a part of

Recipients of Access To Learning Award report – best practices from the ATLA, by some recipients - a panel discussion

*A report by Charmel Bowman,
journalism student at the DUT*

peoples lives and they will no longer think that libraries are only places for scholars doing research."

Silvia Prada reported on Gerente Bibliored, Colombia (ATLA 2002). This project saw the formation of four large libraries, as well as the refurbishing of many smaller libraries. She was emphatic about the importance of

libraries and said "reading brings peace and improved living standards." These four new libraries are open seven days a week, 12 hours a day and are now "the centre of cultural activities."

The final speaker was Rolf Hapel, Library Director of the Aarhus Public Library, Aarhus, Denmark (ATLA 2004). "I feel embarrassed standing here as I

come from a stinking rich country" was his opening statement, when he compared the plight of Denmark to the other much more needy countries. He went on to say that "we all have different challenges". The way that he tries to meet some of Denmark's challenges was through initiatives for children and women, IT guides, health centres, public information and information technology.

The money received by the different projects was well utilized for the improvement of the dissemination of information and knowledge to people in need of it.