

NEWS SECTION

The news section of IFLA Journal contains information about IFLA and its activities, and other "international" news. National information is only disseminated if it has international relevance.

Attention is drawn to the fact that members are free to translate and/or duplicate any part of this news section, without copyright implications. IFLA, indeed, urges members to disseminate the IFLA news in their country and region. A statement of the source of information would be appreciated.

From the Secretariat

Letter to IFLA Members Concerning the Revision of IFLA's Statutes

The letter below was sent by Ross Shimon, Secretary General, to all IFLA Members on 7 February 2000.

Dear Colleague,

I enclose for consultation proposed revised Statutes of IFLA prepared by the Working Group on the Revision of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure. This is the first major review of the Statutes for more than 25 years. The changes are needed to update the Federation to enable it to meet the challenges of the future.

The Group has prepared the proposed new Statutes on the basis of its report, which was presented to Council at its meeting in Bangkok in August 1999. The recommendations in that report were, with one exception, approved by Council. The exception was the recommendation to abolish the Division of Regional Activities (Division 8). The issues surrounding that proposal, and its withdrawal, are now being studied by a separate Advisory Group, chaired by Marjorie Bloss. An "Issues Paper" will be sent to all Members in mid-June 2000 to allow for discussions at the IFLA Conference in Jerusalem.

The present proposals also take into account discussions which took place during the open hearings held at the Bangkok conference and views expressed at the Professional and Executive Board meetings held in December. They are drafted in such a way that the interests at present covered by the Division of Regional Activities can be accommodated in whatever way the Membership decides.

You are invited to submit your comments on these proposed new Statutes. You may submit your comments by post,

fax or e-mail to me at: IFLA, Prins Willem Alexanderhof 5, 2595 BE The Hague, Netherlands (fax: +(31-70) 3834827); e-mail: ifla@ifla.org).

The closing date for submissions is 31 March 2000, but it would be especially helpful to have them by 17 March, so that they can be considered by a joint session of the Professional and Executive Boards the following week. It would be helpful, if you are a Voting Member of IFLA, if you could indicate in your reply whether you would be likely to vote in favor of these proposals.

In accordance with the decision made by Council last August, the decision on the adoption of the proposed new Statutes will be taken by postal ballot. A final text will be prepared following this consultation and dispatched to all voting Members of IFLA on 14 April together with ballot papers. The deadline for the return of ballot papers will be 1 August 2000. The result of the ballot will be declared at the special Council meeting to be held during the IFLA Conference to be held in Jerusalem in August 2000.

The Working Group, in presenting its report to Council, stressed a number of philosophies and objectives which it believed underpinned its recommendations, including:

- The need to update the Federation's statutes which were adopted in 1976, with only minor, technical subsequent changes since then,
- The importance of taking advantage of technological developments to increase efficiency and to maximize opportunities for worldwide participation in the Federation's affairs

The Working Group's main recommendations were that:

- Council, but meeting annually, should continue as the governing body of the Federation.
- A Governing Board should be responsible for the policy and professional activities of the Federation

- An electoral mechanism, based upon a combination of postal and electronic voting, should be introduced to allow all voting Members to participate in elections for the President and in the electoral process for the Governing Board
- The President should be elected for one term of two years as President-elect and one two-year term as President.
- An Executive Committee should be established to oversee the operations of the Federation between Board meetings.
- A Professional Committee should be established as a sub-group of the Governing Board.

The Working Group believes it has now translated these recommendations into a workable set of Statutes. To assist you in this consultation process you may wish to consult the Working Group's Report. It is available on IFLANET at <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla65/65srp.htm>>. Alternatively, paper copies are available on request from IFLA HQ. The current Statutes are also available on IFLANET at <<http://www.ifla.org/III/statute.htm>>

Subject to the approval of new Statutes by postal ballot before the Jerusalem Conference, new Rules of Procedure can be adopted in time for the elections due to take place in 2001.

However, there are some changes to the existing Rules of Procedure which will need to be adopted by Council. Separate proposals for these will be sent to all Members with the Convening Notice for the Council Meeting to take place during the Jerusalem Conference. The Working Group has proposed to the Executive Board that the following changes to the Rules should be put forward:

- The rules about nominations to Section Standing Committees should be simplified, so that only one nomina-

tion by any qualified Member would be required

- Candidates for the post of President-elect should be nominated by 10 Members in good standing. Nominees shall be representatives of Members, or Personal Affiliates.
- Candidates for the 10 generally elected places on the Governing Board should be nominated by at least 5 Members in good standing. Nominees shall be representatives of Members, or Personal Affiliates.

This is a genuine consultation exercise. Please make sure that you contribute to the process of modernizing IFLA. I look forward to receiving your comments.

Proposed Revised Statutes of IFLA

The Federation

Article 1

The Federation represents the interests of library and information associations, libraries and information services throughout the world. The name of the Federation is:

"The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions". It is referred to throughout these statutes as "The Federation".

Acronym

Article 2

The acronym by which the Federation is known is "IFLA".

Headquarters

Article 3

The Federation has its headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands.

Incorporation

Article 4

The Federation is incorporated in accordance with the laws of the Netherlands.

Mission

Article 5

5.1 The Federation is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. Its membership is composed of: associations of libraries, librarians and information services; libraries; and library and information organizations.

5.2 The purposes of the Federation shall be: to promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services; to encourage widespread understanding of the value and importance of high quality library and information services in the private, public and voluntary sectors; and to represent the

interests of its Members throughout the world.

5.3 In order to fulfil these purposes, the Federation shall undertake such activities and enterprises and establish such units which its governing bodies shall determine. The conditions applying to such units shall be defined in the Rules of Procedure. The Federation's Medium-Term Programme shall be prepared from time to time by the Governing Board and shall be published.

Core Values

Article 6

The Federation shall, in pursuing its purposes set out in these Statutes, do so on the basis of the following core values:

- (a) 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
- (b) the conviction that the provision and delivery of high quality library and information services help guarantee that access
- (c) 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
- (d) 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
- (e) 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.

Membership and Affiliation

Article 7

7.1 The Federation shall be made up of:

- (a) Members, and
- (b) Affiliates.

Members

7.2 Membership of the Federation shall be made up of the following categories:

7.2.1 National Association Members

Associations of librarians and information professionals, and associations of other organizations concerned with the delivery of information services and whose purposes are in accordance with those of the Federation, may be accepted as National Association Members. In countries where there is no library and information association, but where the interests of the library and information com-

munity are represented by a single body, this body may be admitted as an Association Member.

7.2.2 International Association Members

International associations concerned with the delivery of library and information services and whose purposes are in accordance with those of the Federation may be accepted as International Association Members.

7.2.3 Institutional Members

Library and information services in the private, public and voluntary sectors, Departments of library and information studies, Sub-units of library and information associations already in membership of the Federation, and Other organizations and agencies whose purposes are in accordance with the purposes of the Federation may be accepted as Institutional Members.

7.2.4 Honorary Fellows

The Governing Board shall have the power to recognize individuals, including former Presidents of the Federation, who have given distinguished service in the profession of library and information service, or who have made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Federation, by conferring on them the title of Honorary Fellow. [see also Transitional Arrangements]

7.3 Affiliates

Affiliation to the Federation shall be available in the following categories:

7.3.1 Corporate Partners: Companies and other organizations with an interest in library and information services may be recognized as Corporate Partners of the Federation.

7.3.2 Personal Affiliates: Individuals who support the purposes of the Federation may be accepted as Personal Affiliates.

Consultative Status

Article 8

Consultative Status may be conferred by the Governing Board on the following types of organizations in order to facilitate mutual cooperation:

8.1 International and multinational associations concerned with one or more types of library and information service or library and/or information activity,

8.2 Other international organizations or bodies with which the Federation wishes to establish relation-

ships in order to further the Federation's purposes.

Rights and Obligations

Article 9

- 9.1 Privileges of Members, Affiliates and bodies with Consultative Status shall include the right to participate in and benefit from the activities of the Federation, including the right to vote, subject to the provisions of these Statutes.
- 9.2 Membership of, and affiliation to, the Federation shall constitute an agreement to:
 - (a) be bound by the terms of the Statutes of the Federation
 - (b) pay such membership and other fees as determined in accordance with these Statutes,
 - (c) actively contribute to the objectives of the Federation

Admission

Article 10

- 10.1 Admission to Membership, Affiliation and Consultative Status shall be subject to a decision of the Governing Board. Admission to Membership, Affiliation and grant of Consultative Status shall be reported to Council
- 10.2 An applicant whose application is rejected by the Governing Board may appeal to Council.

Resignation

Article 11

Any Member or Affiliate or body with Consultative Status may resign at any time by giving written notice to the chief executive officer.

Exclusion

Article 12

Members and Affiliates

- 12.1 The Governing Board may decide to exclude a Member or Affiliate or a member of an IFLA Board or Committee if that Member or person has acted contrary to the Statutes or purposes of the Federation. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required for such a decision.

Bodies with Consultative Status

- 12.2 A body with Consultative Status may have that status withdrawn by the Governing Board if that body has acted contrary to the Federation's Statutes or purposes. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required for such a decision.

Appeal

- 12.3 A Member or Affiliate or body with Consultative Status which has been excluded by decision of the

Governing Board shall receive a notice by post from the chief executive officer specifying the grounds upon which the decision was made. The Member, or Affiliate or body with Consultative Status shall be given 3 months notice of the exclusion taking effect, during which time an appeal against the decision may be made. Any such appeal may be made to the chief executive officer who shall convey the appeal to a standing Appeals Panel established by Council. The Panel shall make the final decision.

Arrears

- 12.4 A Member or Affiliate whose membership fees are in arrears as specified in the Rules of Procedure shall not be entitled to exercise any of its rights or to receive any of the Federation's services, unless the Governing Board decides otherwise. The Governing Board may recommend to the Council to decide to exclude any such Member or Affiliate.

Article 13

Assets

- 13.1 A Member or Affiliate shall forfeit any right to any part of the assets of the Federation in the event of their resignation or exclusion.

Payment of fees

- 13.2 Resignation or exclusion shall not relieve such Member or Affiliate from the obligation to pay arrears in fees and fees for the full financial year in which resignation or exclusion takes place.

Council

Article 14

- 14.1 The Membership in good standing shall constitute the Council, which is the highest organ of the Federation. The Council shall conduct its business either in general assembly or by postal and/or electronic ballot as provided for in these Statutes and in the Rules of Procedure.

Frequency of meetings

- 14.2 The Council shall meet in general assembly once per year, normally during the annual general conference of the Federation.
- 14.3 Council shall meet in general assembly no later than 15 months after the previous meeting of Council.
- 14.4 The date and place of the next meeting of Council in general assembly shall be decided by the Governing Board.

Convening notice and agenda

- 14.5 Convening notices, together with the agenda, shall be sent by the secretariat at least 4 months prior to the date of the meeting to all Members in good standing. The convening notice shall also be sent at least 4 months prior to the date of the meeting to all Affiliates, bodies with Consultative Status, invited observers and members of the Governing Board and officers of all units of the Federation.
- 14.6 Items which Members wish to propose for inclusion in the agenda must reach the secretariat 5 months before the date of the meeting.
- 14.7 The business of the meeting shall be limited to those items appearing on the agenda issued with the convening notice for the meeting. Additional items of an exceptional, urgent character may be added at the discretion of the President or other person who is acting as the chair of the meeting and with the consent of the majority of the Members present or represented.

Extraordinary Council meeting

- 14.8 The Governing Board shall have the power to convene an extraordinary meeting of Council to decide upon matters of urgent and extreme importance and on which decision should not be delayed until the next ordinary Council meeting.
- 14.9 Upon receiving a written request signed on behalf of at least one-tenth of the Members, the Governing Board shall convene an extraordinary meeting of Council. Such a meeting shall be held not later than 3 months after the date on which the request is received by the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall send convening notices to all Members entitled to attend, together with the agenda at least 2 months prior to the meeting.
- 14.10 No decision at such a meeting shall be adopted unless it is subsequently approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members of the Federation in a postal and/or electronic ballot.

Article 15

Attendance at Council Meetings

- 15.1 Each Member is entitled to be represented at Council by one or more representatives. One such person shall be designated by the Member to exercise the right to vote.

Observers

- 15.2 Each Affiliate shall be invited to attend Council meetings.
- 15.3 Each body with Consultative Status shall be invited to be represented at Council by one or more observers.
- 15.4 Each Member of the Governing Board shall be entitled to attend Council meetings as an observer if they are not otherwise entitled to attend.
- 15.5 The chief executive officer and officers of all units of the Federation shall be entitled to attend Council meetings as observers, if they are not otherwise entitled to attend. The definition of "units" for the purpose of this article shall be determined by the Governing Board and shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.
- 15.6 The chief executive officer shall invite other persons, associations and organizations to attend as observers, or to be represented at Council meetings in accordance with guidelines issued by the Governing Board.

Chair

- 15.7 The President of the Federation shall chair meetings of Council. In the absence of the President, the President-elect shall take the chair. In the absence of the President-elect, the Treasurer or another member of the Governing Board shall take the chair.

Conduct of the meeting

- 15.8 All Members or their representatives and all Personal Affiliates are entitled to speak at meetings of Council. Observers may speak at the invitation of the chair or with the permission of the chair. All speakers must observe the protocols for meetings of Council set out in the Rules of Procedure.

Proxy votes

- 15.9 Each Member may be represented at a Council meeting by another Member. Such Member may exercise proxy votes on behalf of the Members they are representing.

Quorum

- 15.10 A simple majority of those Association Members in good standing shall be present or be represented at Council to constitute a quorum, except where otherwise provided in these Statutes.

Voting Rights

Article 16

Entitlement

- 16.1 Members in good standing shall have voting rights and shall be entitled to exercise them in all meetings of Council and in its ballots conducted by post and/or by electronic means. Votes shall be cast in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Allocation of votes

- 16.2 Each Member shall have one vote in all meetings other than Council meetings.
- 16.3 The number of votes accorded to Members in Council meetings and in postal/electronic ballots shall be as follows:

National Association Members

- 16.4 Each National Association Member shall be assigned a number of votes in accordance with a formula determined from time to time by the Governing Board. The formula and the number of such votes shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.

International Association Members

- 16.5 Each International Association Member shall be assigned at least one vote in accordance with a formula determined from time to time by the Governing Board. The formula and the number of such votes shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.

Institutional Members

- 16.6 Each Institutional Member shall be assigned at least one vote in accordance with a formula determined from time to time by the Governing Board. The formula and the number of such votes shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.

Honorary Fellows

- 16.7 Honorary Fellows shall be assigned one vote each.

Personal Affiliates

- 16.8 Personal Affiliates shall not have voting rights, except as provided for in the Rules of Procedure.

Voting Procedures

Article 17

Majority

- 17.1 Decisions shall be carried by a simple majority vote of votes cast, except where otherwise provided in these Statutes.

Deciding vote

- 17.2 If a motion receives an equality of votes for and against, the person acting as chair of the meeting shall have a deciding vote.

Elections

- 17.3 Elections for the post of President-elect and for the elected places on the Governing Board shall be conducted by postal and/or electronic ballot.

Other matters

- 17.4 The Governing Board may hold a postal and/or electronic ballot to determine the Members' views on issues of importance, including proposals for changes to the fees applicable to the various classes of Membership and Affiliation. The outcome of such ballot shall be reported to Council.

Governing Board

Article 18

- 18.1 There shall be a Governing Board responsible for the managerial and professional direction of the Federation within guidelines approved by Council.

Membership

- 18.2 The Governing Board shall consist of:
- (a) the President,
 - (b) the President-elect elected under the provisions of article 19,
 - (c) 10 members elected by Members by postal and/or electronic ballot,
 - (d) the members of the Professional Committee elected under the provisions of Article 22 of these Statutes,
 - (e) up to three further Board members may be co-opted by the Governing Board to represent interests determined by the Board. [see also Transitional Arrangements]

Term of office

- 18.3 The elected members of the Governing Board shall serve for an initial term of 2 years. They may stand for a further term of 2 years. The co-opted members shall serve for 2 years only. Exceptionally, an outgoing elected Board member may, if invited by the Board, serve in the capacity of a co-opted member for no more than a further 2 years.

Casual vacancy

- 18.4 A casual vacancy for elected places on the Governing Board shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the unelected candidate who received the highest number of votes in the most recent elections for the Board.

Treasurer

18.5 The Governing Board shall elect from its own membership the Treasurer of IFLA who shall be responsible for presenting the annual accounts to Council and making proposals for changes to the fees.

Frequency of meetings

18.6 The Governing Board shall meet at least twice per year, once at the time and place of the annual general conference of the Federation.

Notice of meetings

18.7 The chief executive officer shall normally give 2 months prior notice of meetings of the Governing Board.

Quorum

18.8 A simple majority of the members of the Governing Board shall constitute a quorum.

Majority

18.9 Decisions of the Governing Board shall be carried by a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event of an equality of votes for and against a proposal, the President or the person acting as the chair of the meeting shall have the deciding vote. Votes shall be cast in accordance with the provision in the Rules of Procedure.

Invitations to attend meetings

18.10 The Governing Board may invite individuals or representatives of other bodies to its meetings in a consultative capacity if the Board decides that such invitations are desirable for the satisfactory execution of its duties.

Reporting

18.11 The Governing Board shall report formally to Council.

Contracts

18.12 The Governing Board shall be competent to conclude contracts on behalf of the Federation on the advice of the chief executive officer.

Delegation of powers

18.13 The Governing Board may delegate some of its powers to one or several of its members. Such persons shall report to the Governing Board.

18.14 The Governing Board shall have the power to establish such groups, committees, offices or other bodies as it decides are necessary for the execution of its duties. The Governing Board shall determine the terms of reference, which it shall publish, of any such bodies. Such bodies shall report to the Governing Board.

Legal proceedings

18.15 The power to represent the Federation in legal and other proceedings shall belong to the President and the Treasurer acting jointly. Such power shall not belong to the Governing Board.

18.16 The entitlement to representation in legal and other proceedings shall also belong to the President or the Treasurer acting jointly with the chief executive officer.

President

Article 19

Election

19.1 The President, who shall act as the chief representative of the Federation and provide it with professional leadership, shall be elected by the Members by postal and/or electronic ballot.

Term of office

19.2 The President shall serve for a term consisting of 2 years as President-elect, followed by 2 years as President.

19.3 The President shall serve for only one term as President. [see also Transitional Arrangements]

Article 20

Casual vacancy

20.1 In the event of a casual vacancy in the office of President, the serving President-elect shall immediately act as President and shall complete the current term of office of President, and then continue to complete the term of office for which he or she was elected.

20.2 In the event of a casual vacancy for the office of President-elect, the Treasurer shall temporarily assume the duties of the President-elect. A vacancy may be declared by the Governing Board for the post of President-elect and a postal and/or electronic ballot shall be held.

Executive Committee

Article 21

21.1 There shall be an Executive Committee of the Governing Board with executive responsibility delegated by the Governing Board to oversee the direction of the Federation between meetings of the Governing Board.

Membership

21.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-elect, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Professional Committee, 2 members of the Governing Board, elected every 2 years by members

of the Board from among its elected members, and the chief executive officer, ex-officio.

Quorum

21.3 A simple majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Professional Committee

Article 22

Purpose

22.1 There shall be a Professional Committee to ensure coordination of the work of all the units within the Federation responsible for professional activities, policies and programmes.

Membership

22.2 The Professional Committee shall consist of the chair, elected in accordance with Article 22.3 and an officer of each Division of the Federation, preferably the chair of the Division, together with 3 members of the Governing Board, elected by that Board from among its members.

Chair and Vice-Chair

22.3 The Chair of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee from the outgoing members of the Professional Committee. [see also Transitional Arrangements]

22.4 A Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee from amongst its members.

Term of office

22.5 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Professional Committee shall each serve for 2 years only.

Meetings

22.6 The Professional Committee shall meet at least twice per year at a time and place determined by the Committee, one of which shall be at the time and place of the general conference of the Federation.

Quorum

22.7 A simple majority of the members of the Professional Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Majority

22.8 Decisions of the Professional Committee shall be carried by a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event of an equality of votes for and against a proposal, the chair of the meeting shall have a deciding vote. Votes shall be cast in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Professional Units

Article 23

Sections

23.1 The Professional Committee may at its discretion approve a propos-

al to create a Section. Sections shall act as the primary focus for the Federation's work in a particular type of institution, or information activity or other aspects of the Federation's interests.

- 23.2 The Governing Board shall determine the registration fee for membership of Sections which shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.
- 23.3 Each Section shall have a Standing Committee, nominated and elected in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, to develop the programme of the Section and to ensure its execution.
- 23.4 Each Section Standing Committee shall elect from its members a Chair and a Secretary each of whom shall have a term of office of 2 years and who together shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Section. They may be re-elected to the same office for no more than one consecutive term of 2 years.
- 23.5 A Section may be discontinued by the Professional Committee.

Article 24

Divisions

- 24.1 The Governing Board shall establish Divisions whose purpose shall be to promote and coordinate the professional work in broad categories representing aspects of the interests of the Federation.
- 24.2 The Professional Committee shall recommend to the Governing Board the number, names and terms of reference of the Divisions.
- 24.3 Each Division shall have a Coordinating Board, consisting of the Chairs and Secretaries of the Sections allocated to the Division. The Board shall have at least five members. Members may be co-opted to ensure that this minimum is achieved.
- 24.4 Each Coordinating Board shall elect from its members a Chair, a Secretary and a Financial Officer. The term for each of these posts shall be 2 years. Officers may be elected to the same office for no more than one consecutive term of 2 years. The post of Financial Officer shall normally be combined with that of either Chair or Secretary.
- 24.5 The terms of reference of each Section shall be determined by the Division after consultation with the Professional Committee.

Article 25

Core Activities

- 25.1 The Professional Committee may recommend to the Governing Board for approval the establishment of special offices and programmes for core activities of the Federation. The management of these core activities shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure.
- 25.2 Representatives of these core activities may serve as co-opted members of the Governing Board and as elected members of the Professional Committee in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes.
- 25.3 Representatives of these core activities shall be members, *ex officio*, of the Coordinating Boards of Divisions and Standing Committees of Sections relevant to their missions.

Article 26

Special Interest Groups

- 26.1 Special interest groups may be approved by the Professional Committee to accommodate the particular interests of Members and Affiliates for which the establishment of a Section is not deemed appropriate.
- 26.2 A proposal for such a group may be made by a Division, a Section or a combination of Divisions and/or Sections, or by one or more Members.
- 26.3 If a Section proposes the establishment of a group under this provision, the Division to which the Section belongs must be consulted by the Professional Committee.
- 26.4 The Professional Committee shall establish criteria for the establishment of such groups, subject to the approval of the Governing Board and set out in the Rules of Procedure.
- 26.5 A group established under this provision shall report to the Division or Section to which it was allocated by the Professional Committee.
- 26.6 The Professional Committee may approve the discontinuation of a group established under this provision on the proposal of the Division or Section to which it belongs, or as a result of reorganization of the professional work.
- 26.7 The Governing Board shall establish provisions in the Rules of Procedure for the governance of such special interest groups.

Secretariat

Article 27

Chief executive officer

- 27.1 The Secretariat of the Federation is headed by a chief executive officer who is appointed by the Governing Board.
- 27.2 The chief executive officer is responsible for the strategic and operational direction and the financial management of the Federation within the policies established by Council and the Governing Board.
- 27.3 The chief executive officer shall have the right to attend and participate in an advisory capacity at any meeting of Council, the Governing Board, and the Professional Committee, provided that his or her own position is not under discussion. He or she shall not have a vote at such meetings.

Staff

- 27.4 The chief executive officer shall appoint such other staff members as necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Secretariat and deal with all other staffing matters within the limits of the approved budget.
- 27.5 The Governing Board shall determine the general conditions of service of members of staff of the Federation on the advice of the chief executive officer.

Finances

Article 28

- 28.1 The Federation shall derive its finances from:
- Members' and Affiliates' fees
 - Income from the sales of products and services
 - Gifts, grants, legacies and such other resources as are consistent with the objectives of the Federation.

Financial year

- 28.2 The financial year of the Federation shall be the calendar year.

Accounts and Budget

- 28.3 The Governing Board shall submit annually to Council for its approval the accounts for the previous year, audited by a registered accountant.
- 28.4 The Governing Board shall adopt an annual budget for the Federation.

Rules of Procedure

Article 29

The Governing Board shall approve Rules of Procedure to provide for the detailed operation of the Federation within the provisions of these Statutes.

Amendments to the Statutes*Article 30***Proposals for amendment**

- 30.1 Governing Board may make proposals to amend these Statutes, either on its own initiative or on the proposal of Members.
- 30.2 A proposal to amend these Statutes signed by not less than one-quarter of the Members of the Federation and submitted to the chief executive officer shall be acted upon by the Governing Board.

Voting on amendments

- 30.3 Any proposals to amend these Statutes shall be subject to a postal and/or electronic ballot of the total Membership of the Federation. At least 4 months' notice of the proposals shall be given to Members of the Federation, before the ballot closes.
- 30.4 If the proposals receive a simple majority of the votes cast, the proposals shall be considered for final approval by the next following Council meeting. A two-thirds majority of the Members voting shall be required for final approval.

Dissolution of the Federation*Article 31***Proposals for dissolution**

- 31.1 A proposal for the dissolution of the Federation may be made by the Governing Board, either on its own initiative or on the proposal of Members.
- 31.2 A proposal for the dissolution of the Federation signed by not less than one-quarter of the Members of the Federation and submitted to the chief executive officer shall be acted upon by the Governing Board.
- 31.3 Any proposal for the dissolution of the Federation shall be subject to a postal and/or electronic ballot of the total Membership of the Federation. At least four months' notice of the proposals shall be given to Members of the Federation, before the ballot closes.

Voting on dissolution

- 31.4 If the proposal receives a simple majority of the votes cast it shall be carried. Such proposal shall be considered for final approval by the next following Council meeting. A two-thirds majority of the Members voting shall be required for final approval.
- 31.5 In the event of dissolution Council shall determine the method of

ceasing activities and liquidation of the Federation and the disposal of its assets.

Transitional Provisions**T 1: Election of President**

Representatives of Members of the Federation or Personal Affiliates, including those persons who have previously served as President of the Federation under the Statutes in force from 1993 shall be eligible for nomination as President to serve for a two-year period only when these Statutes come into force. No person may stand for both President and President-elect in those elections.

T 2: Election of Chair of Professional Committee

Members of the former Professional Board may be candidates for the post of chair of the Professional Committee in the first elections to be held under these Statutes, but not in subsequent elections.

T 3: Members of the current Executive Board

Serving members of the Executive Board who, in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes in force from 1993, would have been eligible for election for a final term of 2 years, may stand for election to the Governing Board for a period of 2 years only. Those serving on the Executive Board for the four year term 1999 to 2003 shall complete their term as members of the Governing board and may stand for a final term of 2 years in 2003.

T 4: Honorary Presidents

Honorary Presidents created under the previous Statutes of the Federation shall continue to hold that title and the privileges associated with it.

Definitions

"Co-opted member" means a member invited to serve on a committee or board by that committee or board, usually to provide expertise or representation not otherwise available. Co-opted members are therefore not elected. They have voting rights unless otherwise specified.

"Members in good standing" means Members whose membership fees have been paid in full for the latest complete fiscal year and whose earlier payments are not in arrears.

"Simple majority of votes cast" means at least one vote more than half of the votes cast. Members not voting and members who indicate that their absten-

tions be noted are not counted as votes cast.

Explanatory Notes to the Proposed Revised Statutes of IFLA

These notes are intended to help Members engage in the consultation process. They attempt, where appropriate, to:

- draw attention to substantial differences between the proposed Statutes and the existing Statutes
- to relate the changes to the recommendations of the Working Group on the Revision of the Statutes
- to explain the thinking behind the proposed texts.

The Working Group, in preparing these proposed Statutes, had as a major objective, to make the electoral and governing processes more democratic in nature and to facilitate wider participation in the affairs of the Federation.

New Articles 1-4: The Federation

Replace Article 1 and adds a description of IFLA.

New Article 5: Mission

Is the equivalent of Article 2, using more modern language.

New Article 6: Core Values

This is a new provision with no equivalent in the current Statutes. The Working Group believes that it is a valuable addition, which all units within IFLA can use to test the applicability of proposed projects and policies. In particular, it confirms the Federation's commitment to concepts of freedom of information and equal opportunities.

New Article 7: Membership and Affiliation

This is the equivalent of existing Article 3. It uses more up to date terminology. It provides specifically for International Association Members, which is an existing category which has no specific provision at present. It provides for one honorary category of membership, compared with two at present. Existing Honorary Presidents are dealt with in the transitional arrangements at the end of the document.

New Article 8: Consultative Status

This is the equivalent of existing article 4. No substantial change. But admission, resignation and exclusion are dealt with in separate articles for all classes of membership and affiliation, etc.

New Article 9: Rights and Obligations

This is the equivalent of Article 5. No substantial change. The order is reversed; rights before obligations.

New Article 10: Admission

Admission of all categories dealt with here, otherwise no substantial change.

New Article 11: Resignation

Resignation of all categories dealt with here, otherwise no substantial change.

New Article 12: Exclusion

Exclusion of all categories dealt with here. An Appeals Panel to hear appeals against exclusion has been included for the first time.

New Articles 14 and 15: Council

The equivalent of Articles 10 and 11. Provides for Council to meet in "general assembly" or to conduct its business by postal and/or electronic ballot. There are several references to "postal and/or electronic ballot" throughout these Statutes. It is envisaged that ballots will be held entirely by post for several years, until the technology allows cost-effective and secure electronic ballots. In any case, Members without access to the Internet will continue to be able to vote by post. Any legal restrictions on this facility still have to be identified. This provision will enable voting Members to take part in decisions, whether or not they can attend the conference. It provides for Council to meet annually, compared with every two years at present. Decisions at Extraordinary Council Meetings could only be adopted if confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote at a subsequent postal and/or electronic ballot. Entitlements to attendance and to speak at Council are clarified. The requirements for proxy votes are simplified; again making it easier for Members who cannot attend to record their votes

New Article 16: Voting Rights

This is the equivalent of Article 12. It provides for postal and/or electronic voting. It enables the current system of allocation of votes to Association Members to continue, but it would also allow changes to the allocation of votes to Institutional Members in future, if this were thought to be desirable. It also would allow Personal Affiliates to vote in postal ballots in elections to Section Standing Committees where the number of candidates exceeded the number of places, again if this were to be agreed in future. In other words, it is a more flexible provision, allowing for development.

New Article 17: Voting Procedures

This is the equivalent of Article 13. It introduces a requirement for elections for President-elect and for the elected places on the Governing Board to be held by postal and/or electronic ballot, rather than at Council meetings as at present. This is, again, more democratic, enabling participation by all Voting Members. It also provides for a postal and/or electronic ballot to determine Members' views on matters of importance.

New Article 18: Governing Board

This is an entirely new provision. The proposed Governing Board would combine the responsibilities of the existing Executive Board (articles 14,15 and 16) and the Professional Board (Articles 17,18 and 19). The Governing Board would meet twice a year, once at the annual conference. It would consist of the President, the President-elect and ten members elected by the voting Members of IFLA and the members of the Professional Committee (which is roughly equivalent to the present Professional Board), plus three co-opted members. It would be able to combine the managerial, financial and professional interests of IFLA when reaching decisions.

New Articles 19 and 20: President

These are new articles. Most of the equivalent provisions are in Articles 14/15/16. It outlines the responsibility of the President, provides terms of office and provides for the filling of the post in the event of a casual vacancy.

New Article 21: Executive Committee

This is a new provision. It provides for an Executive Committee to oversee the direction of the Federation between meetings of the Governing Board.

New Article 22: Professional Committee

This is a new provision, relating closely to the existing article 17. It provides for a Professional Committee as a sub-committee of the Governing Board, but with representation from the Board to maintain the links.

New Article 23: Sections

This is the equivalent of Article 22. It reaffirms Sections as the primary focus for the Federation's work by type of library or type of activity. It would specifically allow for the continuation (and indeed development) of regional Sections, if that proves to be the outcome of the work of the new Advisory Group. Otherwise little change.

New Article 24: Divisions

This is the equivalent of Article 21. Provides for a separate Financial Officer where this is desirable.

New Article 25: Core Activities

This is the equivalent of Article 20. It takes into account of the suggestions of the group looking at Core Programmes and the need to make more flexible provisions. It provides for a direct relationship between the core activities and the Governing Board and the Professional Committee.

New Article 26: Special Interest Groups

This is the equivalent of Article 23. It provides for the continuation and establishment of Round Tables, Discussion Groups, Working Groups and other groups less formal than Sections.

New Article 27: Secretariat

This is the equivalent of Article 24. There are references to "chief executive officer" throughout these proposals. The idea is to use this generic term so that if, in future, it is decided to adopt "Chief Executive" or "Executive Director" for example, instead of "Secretary General", it can be done without changing the Statutes. Gives the CEO the right to attend the Governing Board and the Professional Committee.

Article 28: Finances

The equivalent of Article 25. No substantial change here.

Article 29: Rules of Procedure

The equivalent of Article 26. Gives the Governing Board the responsibility to adopt the Rules of Procedure.

Article 30: Amendments to the Statutes

The equivalent of part of Article 27. Provides for the introduction of postal and/or electronic voting in amendments to the Statutes.

Article 31: Dissolution of the Federation

The equivalent of the other part of Article 27. Provides for the introduction of postal and/or electronic voting in the event of dissolution proposals.

Transitional Arrangements

These are suggested as separate provisions, which would lapse once the transitional period is completed, without the need to change the new Statutes as such.

T 1: Allows the sitting President at the time of the changeover, to stand for a final two-year term, as would have been

the case if no change had taken place to the statutes.

T 2: Allows for members of the final Professional Board to stand for election as

chair of the first Professional Committee. Would allow for desirable continuity.

T 3: Allows for continuity and prevents wholesale turnover of all elected mem-

bers of the Governing Board at the same elections.

T 4: Preserves the status of existing Honorary Presidents.

From the FAIFE Committee

Song Yongyi Released and Back in USA

On 28 January 2000, the People's Republic of China released College Librarian Yongyi Song. In an official statement from the Chinese Embassy in USA, authorities say they "have treated his case with leniency according to law and decided not to pursue his criminal responsibility."

After more than five months of detention on suspicion of gathering state secrets Mr Song arrived in the USA on Saturday, 29 January. Contrary to reports from Beijing, he said that he had "refused" to confess and that "all those charges are very ridiculous." He stated that the documents he was accused of taking were widely available during the Cultural Revolution.

On 19 January 2000, the IFLA FAIFE Committee wrote a letter to the Premier of the People's Republic of China in regard to the arrest of Mr Song. The text of the letter, signed by Alex Byrne, Chair of the FAIFE Committee is as follows:

Mr Premier, Your Excellency,

On behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and as the Chair of its Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), I am deeply concerned by the arrest of Mr Song Yongyi, our colleague librarian, a scholar and head of technical services at Waidner-Spahr Library at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA. Mr Song Yongyi, a distinguished scholar on the history and documents of the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, was detained in Beijing with his wife, Ms Helen Yao, on 7 August 1999 while in China collecting old newspapers and other documents. Ms Yao was released on 16 November, but Mr Song remained in prison and we are informed that he was charged with 'the purchase and illegal provision of intelligence to foreign people' on December 24. These allegations against Mr Song Yongyi appear to be unwarranted since

he was reviewing previously published and non-secret documents.

In welcoming delegates to the wonderful 62nd IFLA Conference, which your Government hosted in Beijing in August 1996, Premier Li Peng wrote: 'Libraries are the treasure chests of our knowledge and have played an irreplaceable role in promoting civilization. I am confident that the conference will promote further cultural exchange and friendly cooperation between the library and information profession in China and the profession in the rest of the world.'

Indeed, that Conference promoted much valuable collaboration and discussion, not least being the discussion on free access to information and freedom of expression which led to the establishment of the Committee which I have the honor to chair. The Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression bases its work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19, which states that: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.'

The Committee and IFLA as an international professional body urge you to recognise the crucial importance of academic and intellectual freedom and of scholarship and research which enable the pursuit of truth and the creation of mutual understanding between cultures. In recognition of Mr Song's distinguished scholarly record, we ask you to review and dismiss the charges, which apparently stem from his collection of research materials - the normal work as a scholar and librarian.

Should the matter have to go to trial, we therefore encourage your government to ensure Mr Song's right to a fair trial as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and equally embodied in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China signed in 1998.

Furthermore, we are concerned that, in view of the length of time he has already spent in prison and the fact that he is a cancer patient who requires regular medical check-ups, the health of Mr Song Yongyi may have deteriorated and that he may not be fit for a long trial, even less imprisonment.

We respectfully appeal to you and your Minister of Justice to ensure that the charges against Mr Song Yongyi are clarified quickly and, should the case reach that stage, to ensure that it be tried without delay in a fair trial in accordance with and in respect of the fundamental human rights.

Further information on the latest developments, including media reports, can be found at the Dickinson College Web site: <<http://www.dickinson.edu/action/#new>>.

FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) is the instrument of IFLA to promote intellectual freedom and the vital mission of libraries as gateways to knowledge and ideas. FAIFE advocates intellectual freedom in all aspects related to libraries and librarianship. FAIFE was launched in 1997 and consists of a Committee and an Office. The Committee has 29 members nominated by national library associations from almost all parts of the world.

Response to Comments by Ms Ann Sparanese on the "Independent Cuban Libraries"

The following is the response of Alex Byrne, Chair of the FAIFE Committee, to Ann Sparanese's letter, which appeared in IFLA Journal 26 (1): 62-63 (2000).

Ms Sparanese has expressed concern that FAIFE "has easily become an instrument in the unmitigated campaign of war and provocation being waged against Cuba by the United States for 40 years". She suggests that FAIFE has championed a "dubious and hypocritical

cause" and appears to be "oblivious to reality".

However, the FAIFE report and action was not based on the information provided by either the "Friends of Cuban Libraries" or the Florida Web site called CubaNet. Our investigation was indeed triggered by information from the "Friends of Cuban Libraries" which was forwarded to us by several IFLA members who expressed considerable concern at the allegations. However, we investigated directly ourselves and took the action based on the results of our investigations which clearly showed that there has been a campaign of intimidation.

The IFLA FAIFE position is that we will address any abrogation of intellectual freedom which affects libraries that is brought to our attention. We recently supported the campaign to free Mr Song Yongyi with Chinese authorities with, thankfully, a successful result. We have raised the issue of Internet censorship with the government of my own country, Australia. Several other matters are under investigation.

We are concerned about the effect of the Torricelli and Helms Burton Acts on the ability of Cuban people and the libraries of Cuba to access information and will be raising this matter with US authorities.

In taking a stand on the principle of free access to information and freedom of expression, IFLA and FAIFE will at times have strange bedfellows. We will be required to support the expression of ideas which we find offensive, untrue or

dangerous. We will have to object to the banning of publications, Web sites, films that we abhor. In taking such actions we are not endorsing the views, ideas and images presented but simply, and persistently, standing up for the principle of free access to information and freedom of expression.

I encourage Ms Sparanese and colleagues throughout the world to forward information on any abrogation of intellectual freedom which affects libraries to the IFLA FAIFE Office, Islands Brygge 37, DK-2300 Copenhagen, Denmark (fax: +(45) 33667064; e-mail: faife@ifla.org).

Friends of Cuban Libraries

The following is Mr Kent's reply to Ms Sparanese's letter.

Ann Sparanese's letter regarding the FAIFE report on the independent libraries in Cuba and the organization to which I belong, the Friends of Cuban Libraries, contains numerous errors and misstatements. FAIFE's research team, after an in-depth investigation, has independently confirmed our reports that Cuba's independent librarians are being subjected to a campaign of harassment, intimidation, death threats, police raids, short-term arrests, and confiscations because of their principled defense of intellectual freedom. FAIFE's conclusions were reinforced in a subsequent report by Amnesty International granting Prisoner of Conscience status to Ramon Colas, the co-founder of the independent library movement. The findings of FAIFE

and Amnesty as to the systematic repression of intellectual freedom in Cuba are consistent with the reports of every other reputable human rights organization that has investigated the country over the past 40 years: Human Rights Watch, Pax Christi Holland, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Reporters Sans Frontieres, and the Committee to Protect Journalists, among others.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees intellectual freedom for all people in all countries at all times, regardless of whether they have obtained graduate degrees in Library Science. It is not a crime to oppose censorship or to open a library in Cuba or any other country. Ms Sparanese, in the course of her inaccurate statements as to the background, purpose, funding, and motives of the Friends of Cuban Libraries, raises irrelevant issues relating to international politics, political philosophy, educational policy, and trade disputes. The members of the Friends of Cuban Libraries hold a range of views on these issues, but our private opinions on these subjects are irrelevant to our organization's only goal: an uncompromising defense of intellectual freedom in Cuba, regardless of whatever administration may be in office at any given time. In keeping with our defense of intellectual freedom, we support the right of Ms Sparanese to express her view that Cuba's brave independent librarians are "scurrilous characters," but she may also want to keep in mind a remark made by Noam Chomsky: "If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all."

From the CLM Committee

Report from the CLM Meetings, Bangkok, Thailand, August 1999

The Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) held two business meetings during the Bangkok Conference, and also organized a half-day workshop on copyright.

The business meetings, held on the Monday and Friday of the Conference week, successfully brought together reports on all of the activities in which members of CLM had been involved throughout the year. The work of CLM is being undertaken by smaller working

groups made up of small numbers of CLM's members, and focusing on: 1) the activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO); 2) Privacy; 3) Copyright; 4) Education on copyright; 5) the Florence Agreement; 6) Mergers; and 7) Licensing.

Two crucial documents emerged from the work of the groups: a draft of the revised IFLA position paper on copyright in the digital environment, and a draft paper outlining IFLA's licensing principles. The revised IFLA Position Paper on Copyright in the Digital Environment was a vital document, as it is essential that IFLA has a clear position on copyright, especially in view of the WIPO copyright treaty. The draft document was

discussed at length, and the final position paper is now being worked on with a view to being approved by the Executive Board as a policy document. The working group on licensing had produced a set of principles consisting of 26 key points: the group reported that licensing was a key area of concern for libraries everywhere, and that it should be remembered that the licensing environment should be seen as a positive environment for libraries. The Group is now working on developing the set of principles still further.

Another area of concern is the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, and CLM members

agreed that consistent representation from IFLA at key WIPO meetings was essential. IFLA had been represented at four key WIPO meetings in 1999, and reports have been made available on the CLM pages of IFLANET <<http://www.ifla.org/III/clm/copyr.htm>>. International trade regulations are a new area for IFLA, but with new developments within WTO, it is important that IFLA gains a clear picture on developments, and joins efforts to put pressure on international trade organizations, in particular with regard to getting library and education removed from WTO trade agreements. The work of the WTO Working Group will be instrumental in this regard.

Members of CLM communicate mainly via the closed CLM listserv, which is maintained by the CLM Secretariat at IFLA UAP, Boston Spa. The main documents and other information are also available on the CLM pages of IFLANET. There is currently no representation on CLM from South America or from the Arab world, and the CLM Chair would be pleased to hear from anyone with experience in copyright matters interested in joining from these areas.

An extremely successful open session on copyright, "Value, Importance and Critical Elements of Copyright" was also organized by CLM during the Bangkok Conference. Attendance was very high, and delegates heard excellent presentations by Jim Neal, Annabelle Herd and Helge Sonneland on the objectives and philosophy of copyright law and protection; copyright issues in the digital environment; the role of librarians in the copyright debate at the local level; and the proposed new international database protection. The speakers also fielded much interesting and enthusiastic ques-

tioning and comments from delegates. The successful format is likely to be repeated at IFLA's Conference in Jerusalem, 13-18 August 2000, where there will be many new delegates, and many new developments in the area of copyright on which to report.

All IFLA members are encouraged to keep the CLM Chair and/or Secretariat informed of any legal issues in their areas which might be of interest to the Committee. Marianne Scott can be contacted by e-mail at (mfscott@home.com), and the Secretariat at the IFLA Office for UAP and International Lending, British Library, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ, UK; (e-mail: ifla@bl.uk).

ALA Supports IFLA Position on WTO Treaty Agreements

The original WTO resolution distributed earlier on the Social Responsibilities Round Table listserv was passed by SRRT. The version below is the version passed by the ALA Council. It was endorsed by the ALA International Relations Round Table and the ALA International Relations Committee. The IRC amended the 2nd resolved clause giving themselves authority for coalition work. And the IRC added the final resolved clause sending the resolution to IFLA and CLA. In consultation with our SRRT allies on Council, we accepted their amendments in order to get smooth passage of the resolution, and we moved the amendments when introducing the resolution.

Resolution on World Trade Organization Policies Affecting Libraries

- *Whereas* IFLA and the Canadian Library Association (CLA) have taken very similar strong positions regarding new World Trade Organization (WTO) proposals affecting libraries;
- And *whereas* the national delegates to the November 1999 WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle were unable to proceed due to large-scale protests mobilized by a wide coalition of environmental, labor, religious, professional, and civil society organizations;
- And *whereas* ALA sent a delegate to the WTO meeting but had no official position;
- And *whereas* the WTO negotiates in secret and excludes popular participation;
- And *whereas* the WTO proposals could have dramatic negative effects on publicly supported libraries as explained in the IFLA and CLA position statements;
- Therefore *be it resolved* that ALA endorses the IFLA WTO position statement;
- *Be it further resolved* that ALA will work in coalition with other organizations as identified by the International Relations Committee to protect libraries within the WTO context.
- Be it further resolved that this resolution be communicated to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and to the Canadian Library Association (CLA).

Moved by Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor
Seconded by Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor at Large

[IFLA's Position Statement on WTO Treaty Negotiations can be found in *IFLA Journal* 26 (1): 63-64 (2000) and on IFLANET <www.ifla.org>.]

Reports of Meetings

TASKNET, New Delhi, 23-24 November 1999

The following report was submitted by Russell Bowden, Honorary IFLA Fellow and IFLA's representative at the meeting. Mr Bowden may be contacted by e-mail at russell@slt.lk.

The TASKNET Conference was organized in New Delhi, 23-24 November 1999 by the British Council and the Indian National Informatics Centre with local Indian organizations' support on behalf of the Global Knowledge Partners

(GKP). Those attending heard excellent papers, mainly of Indian authorship, participated in exciting and wide-ranging discussions, and the formulation of significant resolutions which are likely to have far-reaching results. However, for librarians and the majority of information scientists present, they must have departed frustrated and, when looking further into the near future, profoundly depressed.

TASKNET, an acronym for Towards A South Asia Knowledge Network, was one of a series of conferences supported by

the GKP, an evolving group of organizations committed to sharing information and experience. Currently 58 organizations are in membership such as the governments of Canada, Finland, Malaysia, Netherlands, Switzerland, UK, and USA; Aga Khan Development Network; Carnegie Corporation; Commonwealth Secretariat; DaimlerChrysler; Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung; Dell Computer Corporation; International Development Research Centre; International Telecommunication Union; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency; UNCTAD; United Nations Population Fund; etc. GKP seeks to promote wider access to, and effective use of, knowledge and information as tools of sustainable development. It was held as a precursor for South Asian input into a global conference planned for Kuala Lumpur in March 2000.

The New Delhi TASKNET meeting was based on the correct belief that the gap between the rich and the poor and the "information haves" and "have-nots" is widening. The conference was seen as an opportunity for global and national organizations to form partnerships and apply new technologies to effectively exploit the world's great resources of knowledge and experience. It had, therefore, the following objectives:

- to facilitate partnerships and exchange best practice to give poor people access to information and knowledge;
- to build networks to preserve and promote indigenous knowledge;
- to raise awareness of the global knowledge agenda; and
- to be a regional feeder event for the Global Knowledge II Conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur in March 2000.

Although billed as a South Asia regional meeting for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the majority of the papers were Indian-authored, and only a very limited number of the 140+ participants were from other countries. Inevitably, therefore, Indian concerns dominated but, given the sheer size of the country and the multiplicity of problems, especially in its abilities to provide information to the rural poor, it would be hard to believe that other problems in these countries escaped being addressed.

The structure within which to consider these problems was divided into three: access, contents, and partnership. As Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chair of the Planning Commission of the government of India, made clear in his inaugural address, the South Asian countries may "...have missed the industrial revolution, but we have no intention of missing the knowledge revolution that is sweeping across the globe." "In the Indian context," he continued (although equally relevant for all the countries), "this has become a national necessity as it penetrates the farthest corners of the country almost instantaneously, opening up income earning opportunities and promoting national and international trade. Equally important, it introduces transparency in governance and helps the nation in the

faster development of the social sector and human development."

The approach was from that of sustainable development, rather than dependent aid projects, described for South Asia by Ashok Khosla as a three-point agenda encompassing the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of people, and regeneration of the environment. So it was computers, telecommunications, facilitating legislation, Internet access, e-mails, and access via the use of languages other than English which, inevitably, dominated the papers and subsequent discussions.

Participants were drawn from all the relevant professions so that they were able to identify problems that stood in the way of empowering the current information poor to become information rich. They included government officials and policy-makers, directors of telecommunications agencies, directors of NGOs, information specialists and librarians. The problems addressed covered just about every problem that one might encounter, from telecommunications band-widths, restrictions on establishing and using community-based radio networks, legislation barring developments, the inaccessibility of information because of the domination of English, and also, because it does not exist, the information flood (ironical when the problem is information poor but those that gain access are suddenly swamped by it), information quality on the Internet (the view being challenged that access to Internet will transform an information-poor village into a "knowledge society!"). Among the issues that dominated was the cost of information, the concept being accepted that no information is ever free. Somewhere, someone must be paid for it. So if the poor are poor because they are denied access to information, then how do they gain access to enough money in the first instance to be able to pay for the access to information that hopefully will eventually make them less poor? A solution posed by Ashok Khosla was to spread the costs of information production, and especially access to it, as widely as possible in order to make the smallest unit's cost accessible. In Bangladesh the Grameen Bank's (GB) solution, seeing future business in the rural markets as they become richer because of their access to information, is to provide a phone by the Bank to a customer under a GB base-finance scheme who also buys services from Grameen Telecom and thereafter sells on services for cash to the village's users. This income pays off the loan. To date, aver-

age monthly earnings are USD 50, which is double the national per capita income.

Other solutions put forward were the establishment of cybercafes, information kiosks or Rural Information Centres in rural villages with access to the Internet, the speedy development of voice recognition to overcome the predominance of English and problems of illiteracy, the local application of universally available information, advocacy to governments for legislation to establish and protect the rights of individuals to access information, in whatever formats they require.

However, the overpowering single memory of TASKNET is of large numbers of young men and women involved in various roles and capacities with NGOs, usually small and poorly funded, but personally exploding with energy and enthusiasm, driven by dedicated commitment and full of inventions and ideas. What was noteworthy was that very few of them were professional librarians or information scientists. Although the conference's purpose was to address the problems of getting information to the rural poor and the ways considered to this ranged from Grameen Bank to cybercafes, there was scarcely a mention of the word "library".

Issues that may have impacted on the audience less forcefully that they should have included recognizing that a "knowledge society" is unlikely to be created from the current contents of Internet and that knowledge and the Internet are scarcely compatible partners in the current states of its development; that access to knowledge on the Internet requires skilled intermediaries capable of analyzing content and quality to weed out the rubbish of which there is so much; that access immediately transforms an information poor society into one needing to resolve problems of information overload; that the information technologies and the Internet are only the means, or tools, leading to the end objective, which is greatly improved access to information using the Internet less for its current contents than to create the information sources one requires; and access via e-mail to communication facilities with the world outside the rural community being served.

Priorities for future actions must be:

- activate rural public libraries by enabling them to access the Internet and train staff to facilitate users' information requirements (before the discovery is made that they no longer

- need to exist because they no longer have a purpose);
- given the membership of the GKP (information providers: the information rich: and the users, mainly NGOs and primarily the information poor) use it constructively to create really meaningful partnerships by resolving between them the problems of high costs and lower purchasing powers; and
 - exploit the powerful influences of these GKP partners to pressure telecommunications and computer suppliers and software development companies to overcome the problems facing the information users and their intermediaries.

I had mentioned earlier "depressing". Why, despite the excellence of the contributions and the vitality of the participants, was TASKNET attendance for me

ultimately depressing? To one of my questions in which I pointed out that had this same meeting taken place a decade earlier, the focus of attention would have been *panchayat, pradeshya sabna* and other rural public libraries, a speaker, from a country other than India, reported that on contacting the local public libraries, they had shown no interest in his NGO's efforts to establish information provisions for rural villages, and when invited to participate, had expressed their inabilities. How much, I wonder, was that a common experience of the other NGOs represented? "Very typical" was the impression I formed. How exceptional in Asia in general is public library non-involvement. "Not at all exceptional" appears to be the answer. The picture I am left with is of young people operating NGOs who are highly socially committed, who have firm and clear objectives about how to

help rural people obtain the information that they need, but who are lacking the necessary professional skills and expertise to provide it. However, this lack of skills is temporary; they will speedily obtain them and use them to establish rural information centres. They will bypass the existing libraries and librarians as irrelevant. These will be left with buildings and materials increasingly irrelevant to the villager's information needs (which will be Internet-provided) and librarians will eventually be without jobs. This picture was reinforced when I asked about the possibility of library organizations joining the Global Knowledge Partnership. I was told, by a representative of one of the organizations, that the other members saw no benefits in libraries joining the GKP because their relevance had not been proven.

From other Organizations

New Network Organization for International Virtual Heritage Established

The International Society on Virtual Systems and MultiMedia (VSMM Society) announced today the establishment of the Virtual Heritage Network (VHN), a new international organization designed to promote the utilization of technology for the education, interpretation, conservation and preservation of Natural, Cultural and World Heritage. The network is a physical and electronic network of people and resources in many countries currently working in the virtual heritage community.

The Virtual Heritage Network (VHN) will address many issues on an international scale by offering services to the virtual heritage industry and community through conferences, projects and information dissemination. The main feature of VHN is the Web site <<http://www.virtualheritage.net>>, a substantial database of news, conferences, events and employment opportunities. The main feature is an online electronic library for the permanent archival of manuscripts, projects and Web sites relating to Virtual Heritage.

The Executive Directors of the new organization are Takeo Ojika (Japan), Gifu University; Robert Stone (UK), Sci-

entific Director of Virtual Presence (UK)/MuSE Technologies (US); Scot Thrane Refsland, Executive Director of VSMM Society, (Japan); and Alonzo Addison, Director of the Center for Design Visualization at U.C. Berkeley, USA. VHN also has a board of directors consisting of international professionals and researchers in the industry.

There has been a strong international growth of interest in the prospect of using VR to recreate historic sites and events for such purposes as education, special project commissions and showcase features at national and World Heritage visitor centres. In the context of heritage, VR goes much further, however, in that it offers a means of protecting the fragile state of some sites and can help educate visitors not so much about their history, but in how to explore, interpret and respect them. Yet, even though the Virtual Heritage industry and community has grown substantially, it is still fragmented and difficult to find researchers, projects, news and events or how to produce virtual heritage applications. Many times researchers will duplicate efforts because they did not know of existing research or case studies. The Virtual Heritage Network provides a common network point to solve these problems through education, administrative, legal/financial case studies, and member interaction tools.

Mr Ojika, founder of the VSMM Society and Virtual System Lab at Gifu University, saw the need for such an organization and began searching for other like minds. "Heritage is extremely important as it tells about our sociological, cultural and natural past. Virtual Reality technologies are a great way to increase our understanding of this important part of human life," says Ojika. In this sense, we gain human wisdom by integrating the eternal values of our heritage and ever-progressing technology in perfect harmony. Thus, the Virtual Heritage Network System is used to realize a common ground where people around the world can communicate with each other freely, toward the coming 21st Century."

"Here in Gifu Prefecture, says Ojika, we've been working on Virtual Heritage through the VSMM Society's International Conferences which host a special session on Virtual World Heritage with the kind support of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. We've also produced several projects at the Virtual System Laboratory, including the Shirakawa Go Grass Hut Village. Shirakawa Go is an extremely important heritage asset to Japan and is a dying art form. We wanted to document this process and since it's located in Gifu Prefecture, it is only appropriate that we modeled it in VR to enable many people to explore it that live outside of Japan. We've been so suc-

cessful with this project that the Prefectural Government is now supporting our efforts in Virtual Heritage through assisting with a more formalized production facility for virtual heritage applications. With this new production facility, we will begin producing a project for Japanese school children to work on virtual heritage projects, as well as offer low cost/no cost production assistance to other international projects. In the future, we want to develop strong relationships with many countries to collaborate on projects that will promote better cultural understanding between countries through the VHN network system."

Bob Stone, a long-time expert of VR and father of the English Heritage Virtual Stonehenge site, says the key issue to Virtual Heritage is accessibility. "As with industrial and commercial applications, the time for being overawed by Hollywood-style 3D graphics and VR component technologies per se has passed. The key issue now for virtual heritage is accessibility. This means paying attention to what some might consider more mundane issues - usability, the human-computer interface, database interchange formats, accuracy and ethical responsibilities. Accessibility also demands the putting in place of a global communication infrastructure to provide formative experiences and, of course, entertainment (but not entertainment that detracts from the real heritage content). Access must not just be restricted to those who work in the expensive laboratories where the virtual heritage developments occur."

In the UK, membership of VHN is gaining pace. The most recent partners joining the VHN partner programme include the Lion Salt Works in Northwich, Cheshire, the Manchester-based Advanced Telematics Centre and, in the north-east of England, the University of Teesside's VR Centre.

In collaboration with the Carnegie Trust, the Lion Salt Works <<http://www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk/>> has been working with Virtual Presence to carry out a VR development programme based around the historic salt mining town of Northwich.

The Telematics Centre <<http://www.atc.mcc.ac.uk/>>, an initiative funded by the European Regional Development Funding to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, brings expertise in IT network facilitation media conferencing and online delivery, an important contribution to the VHN's goal of making

international heritage more accessible through the medium of VR.

The University of Teesside <<http://vr.tees.ac.uk>>, home to one of the UK's academic "reality centres", has recently become involved in the establishment of the Northumbria Heritage Virtual Reality Centre, to be built at the Historic Quay in Hartlepool, UK. The Teesside's Management Team is chaired by Mr Stone. Other founding participants include English Heritage and the Monastery of St Francis & Gorton Trust <<http://www.gorton-monastery.org.uk>> in south-east Manchester (representing one of the 100 most endangered sites in the World Monuments Fund's Year 2000 directory). European membership is expected to grow dramatically over the next 12-18 months.

Mr Stone says, "We've designed the Virtual Heritage Network to address these issues so that we provide accessibility through networking of the professionals who are producing the content and the visitors who will use the applications. The combination of VR and Heritage has become a very powerful new tool for the heritage industry."

Minja Yang, Director of the Asia/Pacific region of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre agrees. "We see virtual reality as a very important management and educational tool that can aid researchers and planners in the conservation and development of their world heritage sites. Yet at the moment the potential of this new technology is largely unknown by many site managers. We have been working closely with the VSMM Society for over two years by participating in conferences on Virtual World Heritage, and we are excited to see the Virtual Heritage Network established as a result of our efforts. It will create opportunities to enhance our mandate in heritage conservation and preservation. VR will never take the place of visiting the actual site, rather, it will provide a substantial contribution to interpretation, preservation and enhancement to a visitor's experience, especially with the younger generations who are already very computer savvy."

Since 1996 the International Society on Virtual Systems and MultiMedia has been hosting the VHN and have been working and collaborating in this area through Special Sessions on Virtual World Heritage, published articles in many journals and international newspapers. In November 1999, an official announcement for the establishment of VHN and the Web database was made at

the Annual UNESCO Site Manager's meeting in Poitiers, France.

Currently VHN is producing a special Session on Virtual Heritage during the VSMM2000 conference in October 2000 in Japan <<http://www.vsmm.org/vsmm2000>> and will be releasing a large format, full-color Book on Virtual Heritage in the summer 2000.

Membership to the Virtual Heritage Network and the use of its services is free. For information, please refer to: <<http://www.virtualheritage.net>>. The VSMM Society can be found at <<http://www.vsmm.org>>.

NISO Standards Committee: Review of the Draft BICI Standard

In 1997, following the completion of the revision of the SICI standard, NISO Standards Committee AP was tasked to develop a standard identification schema for subunits of books. The intent of this new standard, entitled the BICI: Book Item and Component Identifier, is to provide a way to identify non-serial items, in the same way that the SICI identifies serial items. Initially the Standards Committee modeled the BICI on the SICI standard. However, in the course of its deliberations, the Committee concluded that books are inherently more complex objects than issues of journals, and a much richer hierarchy and encoding mechanism was needed. Two design goals influenced the Committee's work: First, that the BICI standard should be computable and derivable from elements that are available from the item in-hand and from the data elements in abstracting and citation databases. Second, that the BICI should be applicable to books regardless of their physical manifestation (i.e., the BICI should identify items in both print and electronic environments).

The following draft standard, which is being circulated to the NISO Members and the information community at large for comment, represents the consensus-to-date of the Committee. This document is a draft subject to change. Some sections of the document are not complete. Throughout the document, Notes identify questions and commentary for consideration.

In particular you are asked to consider these issues:

- As currently defined, the BICI contains mechanisms for describing both logical components (chapters, sections, etc) and physical components (page ranges) of items. Are both mechanisms important? If not, which mechanism is of more importance and more likely to be used? If both structures are needed, are the mechanisms currently defined appropriate and adequate to provide those two types of descriptions?
- Are the mechanisms currently defined for describing hierarchical levels of works adequate? If not, what additional mechanisms need to be defined?
- The current draft allows the identification of several different component types (figures, tables, text, etc.). Are these sufficient as described? Are they too limited? Too complex? Are there important types or formats of materials, which the draft does not address?

Standards Committee AP welcomes all comments on these and other issues, and thanks you for helping us produce a standard that best meets the needs of the user community. You may comment on the standard using the online comment form attached to the draft document which is located at <<http://www.niso.org/bicidrft.html>> or by mail or fax to NISO, 4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 300, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, USA (fax: +(1-301) 6541721).

Missions to Kosovo

Planning Under Way to Preserve Kosovo's Cultural Heritage

The following report was submitted by Patrick Boylan, member of the International Committee of the Blue Shield.

The Council of Europe is developing a plan to preserve Kosovo's cultural heritage, the destruction of which is defined by the UN's war crimes tribunal as a war crime. The move comes after more than half a year in which the UN administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) has virtually neglected the province's war-damaged monuments, museums, and libraries.

The Council of Europe and the European Commission have agreed to establish a high-level group of experts to prepare a detailed survey of the damage and destruction to the architectural and archaeological heritage of all ethnic and religious groups throughout the region. Once they complete the survey this spring, they will establish a list of priorities and set up teams of experts from local, provincial, and federal (Yugoslav) levels, representing all groups in Kosovo, to draw up by this summer proposals for action.

Since the arrival last June of the NATO-led peacekeeping force, KFOR, protection of cultural monuments has been limited to Serbian Orthodox churches. Nevertheless, more than 50 churches in Kosovo have been damaged by vandalism since June.

By far the most thorough survey to date of the destruction of Kosovo's cultural heritage has been conducted by a Harvard University librarian, Andras Riedlmayer, and two architects, an Amer-

ican and an Albanian. They spent three weeks in Kosovo conducting a survey of architectural monuments, libraries, historical archives, public records, and museums. One of the survey's goals is to assess damage and reconstruction efforts and to identify projects and institutions in need of assistance.

Riedlmayer says that Serbian forces in 1998-1999 caused widespread destruction to some 500 villages in Kosovo and severely damaged or destroyed more than 200 mosques or one in three Muslim houses of worship. The Serbs also gutted the overwhelming majority of some 500 defensive stone towers known as *kullas*, traditionally inhabited by large Kosovar Albanian families.

Riedlmayer also notes that the destruction of Serbian Orthodox village churches in Kosovo since the end of the war is a tragedy. But as he puts it, "it is also wrong to ignore...the massive and deliberate destruction of Albanian religious and cultural heritage by Serbian police, soldiers, and paramilitaries."

Another purpose of the survey is to gather evidence for the Office of the Prosecutor of the UN's war crimes tribunal in its investigations into war crimes allegedly committed by, among others, Yugoslavia's indicted President, Slobodan Milosevic.

"The deliberate destruction of cultural property without overriding military necessity is a war crime," Riedlmayer notes. "And the indictment against Milosevic actually specifies among the charges the destruction of cultural and religious heritage. On the other hand, when we talked to the Prosecutor's Office at The Hague they told us that they had no one with either the time or

the expertise on their side to look into this."

The Hague tribunal last May indicted Milosevic and five other senior Serbian and Yugoslav officials with "criminal responsibility for violations of the laws or customs of war." The tribunal's statute says this includes "seizure of, destruction or willful damage done to institutions dedicated to religion, charity and education, the arts and sciences, historic monuments and works of art and science."

Riedlmayer's survey team visited some 80 sites and collected documentation on another 120. His preliminary report in mid-December alleged that there was a clear pattern of Serbian forces systematically targeting mosques in Kosovo, including a number of important monuments from the 15th and 16th centuries. According to the survey, "in the majority of cases, it was evident...that this was not collateral damage from fighting between Belgrade's forces and the Kosovo Liberation Front rebels, nor the result of NATO's bombing."

Riedlmayer comments that "Given that on any kind of population basis, Belgrade's claim to sovereignty over Kosovo is rather weak..., heritage has played a disproportionate role in the politics of Kosovo, at least since the 1980s.... Then when Belgrade took over direct rule in 1989 and 90, one of the first things that happened was a revision of the listed monuments in Kosovo."

Riedlmayer says the California-based Packard Humanities Institute has given a grant of USD 24,000 to pay for material and labor to conserve Kosovo's 100 most-endangered buildings until funding for reconstruction becomes available.

IFLA Contributes to National and University Library, Pristina, Kosovo

When IFLA heard of the mission of Andras Riedlmayer, it immediately earmarked funds to support the work of Professor Nehat Krasniqi, who teaches at the Faculty of University Studies at the University of Pristina and is Head of the Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts at the National and University Library. Professor Krasniqi spent the 1990s (the years when he was without a job, having been dismissed from both the library and the university) combing the countryside for old books and manuscripts. He found more than 200, which have now been added to the National Library's rare books collection. Professor Krasniqi said that "what I would like to do most urgently at this point is a manuscript salvage project. The aim would be to continue to collect old manuscripts still in the possession of families in small towns and in rural areas. More than 500 villages in Kosovo were burned down last year, and hundreds of thousands of people have spent the winter in tents or other temporary shelter. UN officials predicted that many were likely to abandon the countryside and move to Pristina, already at double its pre-war population. In the process whatever family heirlooms survived the war are at serious risk. With many of the old people who still read and valued these manuscripts now dead or dying, it is likely that some of the old manuscripts that survived the flames and the 'ethnic cleansing' may be left behind or discarded as family possessions get pared down to portable essentials."

Through the good services of Glenn Ruga of the Friends of Bosnia, who was also sent on a fact-finding mission, funds were delivered directly to Professor Krasniqi and Mehmet Gerguri, Director of the National Library. From Mr Ruga's letter, "I returned from Pristina and want to report that I delivered the donation to the National Library as planned...It was quite sad to meet with these two distinguished men in their offices with neither heat nor electricity. They work every day under these conditions. During the ten long years of Serbian oppression, they were fired from their positions, and like

most Kosovars, carried on their work in their homes or makeshift offices. Now they are happy to be back in their offices. They are most grateful for IFLA's support..."

Joint Kosovo Libraries Mission of UNESCO, CoE and IFLA/FAIFE

The UN Security Council Resolution 1244 entrusts the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) with "performing basic civilian administrative functions" and "organizing and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self governance" in Kosovo.

In order to prepare an assessment of the situation concerning libraries and to establish rehabilitation guidelines UNESCO, the Council of Europe (CoE) and IFLA/FAIFE sent an expert mission to the main cities of Kosovo. In the period from 25 February to 5 March Frode Bakken, County Librarian of Buskerud, Norway (former President of the Norwegian Library Association) and Carsten Frederiksen, Deputy Director of the IFLA/FAIFE Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, visited libraries in all major regions of Kosovo.

IFLA is concerned with the role of libraries in building and sustaining democracy. One of the prime priorities within the work of FAIFE is to: "Promote freedom of access to information and freedom of expression as fundamental human rights, which are cornerstones vital to the mission of libraries and librarians in providing access to knowledge in support of human rights, peace, democracy and development."

UNESCO and CoE supported the mission both financially and in terms of logistics. UNESCO established consultant contracts with Mr Bakken and Mr Frederiksen and helped to organize the mission in Kosovo, in close cooperation with the UNMIK Civil Administration in Pristina. Likewise the Secretariat Office of CoE in Pristina assisted the mission in practical matters. Furthermore, the mission received generous financial support from the librarians' organizations in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. These

organizations provide funding for translations, interpretation, local transportation, accommodation, etc.

To prepare an assessment of the situation concerning archives, UNESCO, the CoE and the International Council on Archives (ICA) in December 1999 organized a parallel expert mission to Kosovo, carried out by Bruce Jackson, County Archivist, Lancashire Records Office, Preston, UK. The libraries' mission, based on similar conditions and with similar terms of reference, were related to the experiences obtained by Mr Jackson.

The Kosovo Libraries Mission covered all categories of libraries and had the following terms of reference:

- Assess the present situation of libraries in Kosovo, including an assessment of the destruction and damages of libraries;
- Assess the situation in the area of library management in existing administrations;
- Assess the legal situation related to library management;
- Advise on short- and medium-term measures to be taken to ensure adequate legal coverage of library and intellectual freedom issues; taking into account the importance of libraries as local gateways to knowledge, promoting equal access and reflecting the plurality and diversity of society and as instruments to support the process of democratization;
- Advise on the inclusion of library management components in rehabilitation programmes;
- Make recommendations on measures to be undertaken to safeguard endangered libraries and to reconstruct a functioning library system in Kosovo.
- Submit to UNESCO, not later than 31 March 2000 a report of the mission to Kosovo including: 1) a general assessment of the situation; 2) a plan for immediate action including recommendations for action addressed to UNESCO and UNMIK; 3) recommendations to UNMIK to adequately cover library issues in reconstruction projects; 4) a list of several small projects for immediate improvement of the situation; and 5) a mid-term development plan for consolidation of the situation.

International Directory of Libraries for the Blind

The fourth edition of the *International Directory of Libraries for the Blind*, issued as No. 90 in the series, IFLA Publications, was obtained from a database which is maintained by the Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD) on behalf of the IFLA Section of Libraries for the Blind (SLB). The most current information is available via Internet <<http://dserver.dinf.ne.jp:591/>>. It has been compiled and edited by Misako Nomura and Mayu Yamada under the auspices of the Section of Libraries for the Blind. In February 1999, JSRPD sent out a questionnaire on behalf of the SLB to 394 organizations, including a previously unrecorded 139 organizations. As a result, updated information from 130 organizations was obtained by post, e-mail, or online updating. The Directory is arranged alphabetically by countries. Within countries, individual organizations are also arranged alphabetically. Each organization has a unique entry number. An alphabetical list of 242 organizations in 78 countries and an index of 82 different languages follow the data sheets. The data was taken from the questionnaire returned to the editors or updated online via Internet. The data of some organizations whose response did not reach the editors by 1 December 1999 have been extracted from the third edition database. The title is available from K.G. Saur Verlag, Orterlstrasse 8, 81373 Munich, Germany for DEM 98,- (IFLA Members DEM 32,-). ISBN 3-598-21816-8

The Digital Library. Challenges and Solutions for the New Millennium

The Digital Library. Challenges and Solutions for the New Millennium, Proceedings of an International Conference Held in Bologna, Italy, June 1999 was edited by Pauline Connolly and Denis Reidy and published by the UAP Office. The papers presented at this conference closely examine different aspects of the problems encountered in creating a digital library. The experiences of libraries in both Italy and the United Kingdom are shared and the importance of cooperation is stressed. Topics covered by the papers are copyright, electronic publish-

ing, standards and protocols and electronic document delivery. In addition, some digital library projects and practical case studies are described. The proceedings are published in English but also include Italian abstracts and contents pages. The title is available from the IFLA UAP Office, c/o the British Library, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ, UK (fax: +(44-1937) 546478; e-mail: richard.ebdon@bl.uk) for GBP 20.00. ISBN 0953243774

DIRKS Manual

In today's electronic environment, the word has become more and more elusive. Created on screen and then clicked into cyberspace, millions of messages criss-cross Australia each day. And until now, electronic record-keeping systems have not kept pace with the rapidly developing technology. But a new, draft manual developed by the State Records Authority of NSW and the National Archives of Australia aims to bridge the technological gap. Known as *Designing and Implementing Recordkeeping Systems (DIRKS Manual)*, it was released on 7 February for comment and testing.

The first of its kind in the world, the manual will help Commonwealth and NSW Government agencies to design and implement recordkeeping systems for any technological or paper-based environment. Designed specifically for use online, the manual can be navigated for easy reference and provides links to other Commonwealth and NSW Government resources.

The exposure draft of the *DIRKS Manual* will be on the Web sites of the National Archives and State Records Authority until December 2000 for input and comments by potential users and interested parties. The Web site address at the National Archives of Australia is: <<http://www.naa.gov.au/Govserv/tech-pub/DIRKSman/dirks.html>>. The Web site address at the State Records of NSW is <<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publicsector/DIRKS/Exposure%20draft/title.htm>>.

For more information please contact Tony Newton, State Records of NSW (e-mail: govrkman@records.nsw.gov.au) or Adrian Cunningham, National Archives of Australia (e-mail: adrianc@naa.gov.au).

Russian Translation of NEDCC's Preservation Manual Is Available Online

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, Massachusetts announces that the Russian translation of its publication, *Preservation of Library & Archival Materials: A Manual*, is now available online at NEDCC's Web site at <www.nedcc.org>. The original bound copy of this translation was created by the Guild of Restorers of St. Petersburg, Russia. Ms Natalja Kopaneva, President of the Guild of Restorers, served as the project director, while Ms Juliana Nyuksha, a distinguished Russian conservator, served as the technical editor. A desire to make current conservation information readily available outside of Russia and at no cost prompted NEDCC to post this resource online. The purpose of the manual is to provide the basic, practical information needed to enable non-conservator staff of libraries, archives, and museums to plan and implement sound collections care programmes. It is intended for those who must make decisions that affect preservation of collections, or who want to upgrade standards of care in order to better preserve materials.

The translation of the manual into Russian was supported by a grant to NEDCC from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. NEDCC's exchange programme with conservators in St. Petersburg, Russia has also been supported by the Getty Grant Program, The Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Kress Foundation, and the Open Society Institute. The goals of the programme are to expose conservators to the American approach to conservation, to train a cadre of leaders who can teach skills to others and to promote an ongoing exchange of information between conservation and preservation professionals in the two countries. The Northeast Document Conservation Center also receives funds for its field service office from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center is a nonprofit regional conservation centre specializing in the conservation of paper-based materials including books, documents, photographs, architectural drawings, maps, posters, wallpaper, and works of art on paper. It performs paper conservation, book binding,

preservation microfilming, and duplication of photographic negatives for outside clients. Its purpose is to provide the highest quality conservation services and to serve as a source of consultation and

training for institutions that hold paper-based collections. If a user prefers the convenience of a book, copies of *Preservation of Library and Archival Materials: A Manual in Russian* can be

obtained through the Guild by contacting Ms Natalja Kopaneva, National Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia (fax: +(7-812) 1832517).

Miscellaneous

International Children's Book Day 2000

International Children's Book Day (ICBD) will be officially launched by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) at the Bologna Children's Book Fair on 29 March. ICBD is celebrated on or around 2 April, Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, to inspire love of reading and to call attention to children's books. Each year a different National Section of IBBY sponsors the day, selects a theme, and invites a prominent author to write a message and a well-known illustrator to create a poster. Several IBBY Sections promote ICBD through the media and organize activities in schools and libraries. Often ICBD is linked up with a children's book week or other special events such as encounters with authors and illustrators, writing competitions or announcements of book awards. Some Sections combine the celebration of ICBD with UNESCO's International Book and Copyright Day on 23 April. Finland is the sponsor of this year's ICBD with a poster by Mika Lounis and a message by Hannele Huove on the theme, "The Secret Is in the Book, the Book Is the Secret". A folder which includes a picture of the poster, the text of the message in seven languages (Finnish, Swedish, Sami, English, German, French, and Spanish) and a presentation of the author and the illustrator is available together with the poster for USD 10.00 (minimum order 10 copies) from the Finnish Section of IBBY, c/o Maija Karjalainen, Urheilukatu 16.B.31, FIN-00250 Helsinki, Finland (e-mail: maija.karjalainen@kolumbus.fi). In 2001 the sponsoring country will be Hungary and in 2001 Austria.

UNESCO Creates New Programme for Information

UNESCO is creating a new programme for contributing to a just and free information society with universal benefit.

UNESCO's Member States wish that the new programme, which will replace the General Information Programme (PGI) and the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme, promote free and universal access to information which individuals need to participate equitably in the global information society. The programme should also provide an appropriate framework for the preservation and global sharing of information and knowledge and is thus of particular relevance to the archives and library community. Information experts are invited to submit suggestions as to the scope and activities of the new programme as well as to its name at <<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/future/index/shtml>>.

Sending ILL Requests by E-mail

The IFLA Office for UAP and International Lending has developed new guidelines which can be used to support the sending of ILL requests by e-mail. While many structured messaging systems require requests to be formatted according to strict rules, many hundreds of "free-form" ILL requests sent between libraries have no such structure, and all the elements of the request are given in the body of the e-mail message. The IFLA Office for International Lending was asked to produce some guidelines to help interlending staff to format such requests in a standardized way, which should ensure that all requests contain all of the required elements, and that the information is given in a standard format which will help speed up the processing of such requests. The Guidelines can be consulted at <<http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/p3/g-ill.htm>>. All comments will be welcomed. Please send them to Sara Gould, IFLA Office for UAP and International Lending, c/o British Library, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ, United Kingdom (fax: +(44-1937) 546478; (e-mail: sara.gould@bl.uk).

Lederberg Report: The Future of Scientific Communications

The Lederberg Report concerning the future of scientific communications, supported by UNESCO and WHO, recommended an evaluation of the emerging global Internet as a mechanism to make scientific conferences and colloquia series of international interest available to desktop PCs in all countries. The evaluation was conducted at Yale Medical School, through a regularly-scheduled global colloquium series <<http://info.med.yale.edu/EIINet>>, supported by UNESCO, WHO, the Sprint and Lounsbury Foundations, and the Policy Science Center, Inc. The prototype converted each hour of lectures into audio and images every 2-3 minutes, plus text (about 6-8 megabytes, compressed).

The favorable evaluation of this experiment led to a recent recommendation by a Reinventing Diplomacy advisory group in the USA that the large-capacity global satellite net of the former US Information Agency be redesignated to support, without charge, substantially expanded global Internet applications. If approved, the plan will permit free global distribution from any international site, to all countries, of scientific lectures and regularly-scheduled colloquia of international interest as well as overnight mirroring of high-use Web sites and databases (e.g., *Index Medicus*) to all countries. This initiative (Project 1: "Five Internet Projects That Can Change the World") is pending before the Broadcasting Board of Governors. It is being presented by Sanford Ungar, the new Director of the Voice of America, and a decision is expected by the end of March.

For more information please contact Lloyd Etheredge, Director, International Scientific Networks Project, Policy Science Center, Inc., POB 208215, 127 Wall St., Room 322, New Haven, CT 06520-8215, USA (fax: +(1-301) 6574214; e-mail: lloyd.etheredge@yale.edu or lloyd.etheredge@erols.com).

Networked Information Resources

Until recently, neither the knowledge of available electronic resources nor their evaluation, acquisition, and dissemination were issues significantly impacting the daily operations of research libraries. Developments in computer technologies have irrevocably altered library operations; it is now the unusual library that has not in some way responded to the challenges of developing an awareness of, subscribing to, and disseminating networked resources. This SPEC Kit examines how ARL (Association of Research Libraries) libraries have structured themselves to identify networked information resources in the market, evaluate them for purchase, make purchasing decisions, publicize them, and assess their continued utility. For the purpose of the survey, a networked information resource was defined as a commercially available, electronic information resource (library database, full-text service, e-journal, etc.), funded or enabled by the library, which is made available to authorized users through a network (LAN, WAN, dial-in,

etc.). In the summer of 1999, the survey was distributed to the 122 ARL member libraries. A total of 59 responses (48%) were received. Ninety-eight percent of the respondents offered networked information resources to their users. For more information please contact Bradley Houseton, Communications & Marketing Coordinator, Association of Research Libraries, 21 Dupont Circle, No. 800, Washington DC 20036, USA (fax: +(1-202) 8720884). For the full text of the SPEC Kit 253 Executive Summary and ordering information, please visit <<http://www.arl.org/spec/253sum.html>>.

New Director of EBLIDA

The EBLIDA Executive Committee has appointed Teresa Hackett as Director of EBLIDA, to begin on 21 February 2000. She replaces Barbara Schleihagan will move to Berlin at the end of February.

Teresa Hackett has most recently worked on the Libraries Support Team

in Luxembourg, providing technical support and services to the European Commission's Libraries Programme under the Fourth Framework Programme, on contract from the British Council. In addition to experience working in a variety of library services, Ms Hackett has managed Customer Support for a UK library automation company, involving consultancy, project management, Help Desk, technical training and support worldwide.

She later worked for the British Standards Institution, responsible for electronic product sales and development before joining the British Council Munich to set up and manage a new electronic Information Centre. She is a graduate of University College, Dublin in German, History and Politics and has a postgraduate diploma in Library and Information Science from the Polytechnic of North London. She is a chartered member of the Library Association (UK) and an associate of the Institute of Information Scientists.

International Calendar

March 7-10, 2000. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. GKII Conference. Theme: "Building Knowledge Societies: Access, Empowerment, Governance". For information: GK Partnership at the World Bank, 1818 H Street N.W., Washington DC 20433, USA (e-mail: globalknowledge@worldbank.org; <<http://www.globalknowledge.org>>)

April 2. International Children's Book Day

April 10-15, 2000. Windhoek, Namibia. 14th SCECSAL Meeting. For information: Justin Chisenga, Department of Information and Communication Studies, University of Namibia, Private Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia (fax: +(264) 612063806; e-mail: scecsal2000@hotmail.com; jchisenga@hotmail.com <<http://www.unam.na/1370/niwa/scecsal.htm>>).

April 12-14, 2000. Paris, France. ELAG: Library Systems Seminar. Theme: "ALM Convergence: Issues and Challenges". For information: Paula Goossens, Royal Library, European

Library Automation Group, Keizer-slaan 4, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium (fax: +(32-2) 5195646; e-mail: paula.goossens@duke.kbr.be)

April 23. World Book and Copyright Day

April 26-28, 2000. Suntec City, Singapore. Eleventh Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians. Theme: "Stepping into the New Millennium: Challenges for Librarians and Information Professionals". For information: National Library Board of Singapore, 1 Tamasek Avenue, 06-00 Millenia Tower, Singapore 039192 (fax: +(65) 3323233; Web sites: <www.lib.gov.sg>, <www.consal.org.sg>)

May 1-3, 2000. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 26th Congress of the International Publishers Association. Theme: "Publishing in the 21st Century: A Path from the Past to the Future". For information: Congresos Internacionales S.A., Moreno 584, 9th floor, 1091 Buenos Aires, Argentina (fax: +(54-11) 43310223; e-mail: conginte@congresosint.com.ar)

June 3-11, 2000. Sudak, Crimea. 7th International Conference. Theme: "Libraries and Associations in the Transient World: New Technologies and New Forms of Cooperation". For information: Crimea 2000 Organizing Committee, 12 Koznetsky Most, 103919 Moscow, Russian Federation (fax: +(7-095) 9259750; e-mail: crimea2000@gpntb.ru; Web site: <http://www.iliac.org/crimea2000/eng_inf.html>

July 9-12, 2000. London, UK. 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship

August 6-10, 2000. Malmö, Sweden. IASL Annual Conference. Theme: "Information Literacy: Key to the Future". For information: Malmö Kongressbyrå, Centralstation, SE-21120 Malmö, Sweden (fax: +46-40) 235520; e-mail: congress@telia.com)

August 9, 2000. Athens, Greece. The 16th Annual International Conference of Parliamentary Libraries. Organized by the Section on Library and Research

Services for Parliaments and sponsored by the Hellenic Parliament. For information: Eleni Mitrakou, Hellenic Parliament, Serials Department, 218 Lenormant Ave., Athens 11528, Greece

August 9-10, Holon, Israel. Satellite Meeting of the Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations with the Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults. For information: Souad Hubert, Bibliothèque Publique d'Information, Centre G. Pompidou, 19 Rue Beaubourg, 75197 Paris Cedex 04, France (fax: +(33-1) 44781215; e-mail: hubert@bpi.fr)

August 17, 2000. Ramallah, Palestinian Authority. Special Meeting of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments. Organized by the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments. For information: Richard Paré, Library of Parliament, Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (fax: +(1-613) 9967092; e-mail: parer@parl.gc.ca)

August 13-18, 2000. Jerusalem, Israel. 66th IFLA General Conference. Theme: "Information for Cooperation:

Creating the Global Library of the Future"

August 21-24, 2000. Paris, France. Symposium 2000: Managing the Preservation of Periodicals and Newspapers. For information: Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, IFLA-PAC, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2 rue Vivienne, 75084 Paris Cedex 2, France (fax: +(31-1) 47037725; e-mail: marie-therese.varlamoff@bnf.fr)

September 17-22, 2000. St. Louis, Missouri, USA. INTAMEL. Theme: "Public Libraries in a Global Society". For information: Pat Wressel, 36 Highbury, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3EA, UK (fax: +(44-191) 2120146; e-mail: pwa@wressel.demon.co.uk)

September 18-20, 2000. Cartagena de India, Colombia. 27th IBBY Congress. Theme: "The New World for a New World: Children's Books for the New Millennium". For information: Silvia Castrillon, Fundalectura, Apartado 048902, Av. (Calle) 40 # 16-46, Santafé de Bogota, Colombia (fax: +(571) 2877071; e-mail: fundalec@impsat.net.co; www.fundalectura.org.co).

October 16-22, 2000. Brighton, UK. Second Special Libraries Association International Conference. Theme: "The Information Age: Challenges and Opportunities". For information: SLA European Bureau, Boulevard St. Michel 15, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium (fax: +(32-2) 7431550; e-mail: sla@associationhq.com; Web site: www.slaglobal2000.org)

August 19-26, 2001. Boston, Massachusetts, USA. 67th IFLA Council and General Conference. Theme: "Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age"

August 18-24, 2002. Glasgow, Scotland, UK. 68th IFLA General Conference. Theme: "Libraries for Life: Democracy, Diversity, Delivery"

August 1-8, 2003. Berlin, Germany. 69th IFLA Council and General Conference

August 2004. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 70th IFLA Council and General Conference

August 2006. Seoul, Korea. 72nd IFLA Council and General Conference

