

IFLA

NEWSLETTER

Regional Section for Latin America and the Caribbean

N. 24 August 1994

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EDITORIAL

The editors of the Newsletter survey all the publications and mail sent to the RO. As a communication channel not only for IFLA but also for the countries in our Region, some of the important information can only be transmitted with the personal collaboration of professionals. Usually the news are restricted to those countries that are our main collaborators. Have you checked how many times your country has been the subject of news in this NEWSLETTER?

NEWS IFLA AND ITS SECTIONS

- **IFLA CONFERENCES**
- **60th General Conference, Cuba, 21-27th August, 1994**
 - Theme: Libraries and Social Development
 - Registration fee: US\$ 400,00 payable by cheque or post order to IFLA HEADQUARTERS-POBOX 95312-2509 The Hague, Netherlands, or by credit card, Master Card/Eurocard, Visa, Ameri-

can Express. Hotel prices: double from US\$ 40.00 to 65.00, single, from 30.00 to 55.00. Let us all make an effort to participate in the first IFLA Conference to be held in our Region. It might be a good idea for Delegates to take a 5/4" disc to collect electronic versions of conference papers they may wish to take home with them.

• **Contributed papers contest IFLA/LAC**

Theme: Cooperation and services for the cultural, social and librarianship development.

The theme may be treated within an overview of the Region and then focus experiments in a country, but always related to the general theme of the Conference: Libraries for social development. The following papers have been received:

Argentina

Lechini, Corina Amália. Regional Programme of Reading Promotion in traveling boxes;

Sandoval, Mabel. Libraries for social development or utopia?

Brazil

Amaral, Suely Angélica do. Library services for social development: some considerations.

Freire, Neusa Dourado. Book handbag.

Fragoso, Graça Maria. Open library-BIBA.

Ribeiro, Maria Solange Pereira. For a transforming action of school libraries;

Colombia

Zuluaga Gomes, José Rodrigues. Library services for social and cultural development

México

Figueroa Alcantara, Hugo Alberto. Repercussions of IFLA in the development of library services in third world countries: a Latin American viewpoint.

The selection was made by Maria Elena Zapata, President. Estela Morales, Secretary and Ivone Tálamo, SC members. Three of the eight papers have been selected and sent to IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. The selected paper by IFLA is Library services for social development to be presented by Suely Angelica do Amaral in Cuba, August 22.

• **Professional Session of the Section of Latin America and The Caribbean in Cuba**

The following papers will be presented:

Library cooperation and social and cultural development in the Caribbean, by Alex Richards (St. Martin);

Latin-American production as a support to libraries in the Region, by Elza M. Ramirez Levya (México);

The role of the State in the development of public libraries and society, by Saray Córdoba Garcia (Costa Rica);

The development of the library professional in the South Cone through cooperation, by Stella Maris Fernandez, (Argentina);

The retrospective conversion of the Handbook of Latin American Studies, by Susana Mundel (E.U. - Library of Congress)

• **Open Session of the Section of Public Libraries in Cuba - Will focus on the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto**

and will hold a two halfday workshop on library service for young adults. Hellen Niegaard, dir. librarian, Hilleroed Public Library- 3400 Hilleroed, Denmark. The Unesco Manifesto after the presentation in Cuba will go to Unesco for final confirmation. It is expected that national associations and members will promote the Manifesto vigorously in their own countries to ensure that it has a world-wide impact on public library development. (Public Library News, 11, June 1994)

• **Pre Session Seminar "Libraries for literacy in geographically and socially isolated communities"**

to be held in Matanzas, Cuba, at the Biblioteca Provincial, August, 1994.

The theme is divided in the following sub-themes: Services for children (new literates), Services for adults: new literates and maintenance of literacy, Public libraries in rural areas, Services to urban marginal communities, Social and economic factors frequenting library development, Relationship to the oral tradition.

Professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean invited to the Seminar: Hugo Figueroa Alcantara, Mexico; Lynette Comissiong, Trinidad, Alfredo Mires, Peru; Ana Ligia S. Medeiros, Brazil, Blanca Hodge, Dutch Antilles; Teresa Granados, Nicaragua; Nicole Mounier, French Guyana; Gloria Rodriguez Santamaria, Colombia; Alvaro Agudo, Venezuela; Livio Antonio Rangel Bautista, Venezuela, Maria Margarita Gamboa Gonzales, Alfonso Barrera Montes de Oca, Cuba; Susana Cañibano, Argentina; Helen Guardado de Del Cid, El Salvador; Carmine Ilonie Daley, Jamaica; Maria Elena Zapata, Venezuela; Norma Toucedo, Uruguay. Some of them have been invited to present a paper.

• **10th International Conference of the Parliamentary Libraries Section in San José, Costa Rica, August 18-19th, 1994.**

Theme: Parliamentary Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Program: papers on parliamentary libraries in the region, visits, a comparison of parliamentary libraries in Brazil, one other Latin American country, Great Britain, United States and Canada and the role of information in a democratic legislature, from a Latin American perspective. At the meeting in Havana the open meeting theme will be "Creating greater understanding of the parliamentary library and its use by Members of the Parliament".

• **IFLA PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR Mobile Libraries Serving Multicultural Popu-**

lations, Trinidad, Cuba, 16-17th August, 1994. Celia Wolf, Maria de Lourdes C. Romanelli and Rosa Maria S. Lanna from Brazil and Mary Luz Isaza Ramos, from Colombia are among the chosen speakers. Registration fee US\$ 75.00. Applications can be sent to: Thelma Tate, Mabel Smith Douglass Library, POBOX 270, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903-0270, USA, Fax: 1-908-9326777.

• **Third World Countries Caucus, TWCC, IFLA**

Dr. Shawky Salem, TWCC organizer sent the TWCC Final Study (establishment, objectives, plan of action) drafted after the receipt of comments from members who attended the meeting in Barcelona. TWCC in a new body within IFLA structure to help the Third World Countries in their activities in Library and Information Science (LIS). Its objective A states: To strengthen the situation of the TWC in IFLA bodies, specially: Professional and Technical Committees, Regional Committees, Round Tables, Sections, Divisions, Core Programmes, Professional Board, Executive Board. The 13 pages document is available at the Office for those interested in this new instrument to achieve the improvement of LIS in the three IFLA regional areas.

• **IFLA CONFERENCES**

1995: 20-26 August, Istanbul, Turkey. Theme: Libraries of the future. Sub-themes: Information technology and the restructuring of libraries; Cooperative national and international information networks, The future of library materials, Libraries and public education, Professional communication. December 1, 1994 is the deadline for receipt of the draft text and the application form at IFLA Headquarters for the presentation of papers that must focus on one of the sub-themes. Applicants should note that papers focusing exclusively on a local/national system or situation are less likely to be accepted.

1996: 25-31 August, Beijing, China. Theme: The challenge of change: libraries and economic development.

1997: Amsterdam, Netherlands

• **IFLA HEADQUARTERS AND THE STAFF**

Some members of IFLA may not be completely familiar with the operation of the secretariat (headquarters) of IFLA, known as IFLA HQ. Members will see the names, job titles and photographs of the staff of IFLA HQ in the new 1994-95 edition of the IFLA Directory. What is not clear from those brief details is the range of nationalities, languages and professional background, and the responsibilities of various staff members. Therefore it is hoped that this short article will lift the veil on some of the "mysteries".

There are three full-time staff members with professional library training and experience: they

are the Secretary General, Leo Voogt, the Professional Coordinator, Winston Roberts, and the Executive Officer, Carol Henry.

-Leo is Dutch, a librarian and historian by training (and a manager by inclination). He held various positions in the research, book and library world. He was head of the policy development staff and secretary to the Governing Board of the Royal Library - that is the national library - of the Netherlands, in The Hague, before he was appointed Secretary General of IFLA in 1992. He deals with general questions of policy, financial management of IFLA, staffing, structure and membership of IFLA, and external relations. In consultation with the President, Leo travels widely as a spokesman for IFLA. He acts as the secretary to the Executive Board of IFLA.

-Winston is a linguist by training (and also by inclination). His second language is French (he lived in France for some years). Right now he is learning Dutch. He is from New Zealand, though his professional library career was in the United Kingdom. He did his library studies at the University of Sheffield (UK) and worked for several years at the British Library. He was the Programme Officer of the UBCIM Programme in London from 1987-1990. He was appointed in 1990 as Coordinator of Professional Activities at IFLA HQ. He advises IFLA officers on the administration of their Sections, the management of projects, the planning of meetings, and coordination among the various Sections, Round Tables, and Core Programmes. He acts as the secretary to the Professional Board of IFLA, and also represents IFLA at professional meetings with other organisations.

-Carol is from the USA, and has lived in the Netherlands for many years. She graduated from the State University of New York (Binghamton) and did her library studies at Syracuse. During her 15 years at IFLA HQ, she has become known to IFLA members and librarians around the world as the editor of the IFLA Journal and the IFLA Annual. She has the task of compiling the annual conference programme. She advises the national organising committee each year on the general organisation of the conference - and she remembers everything about all our past conferences...! (She manages to remain very modest about herself, but is very proud of her grandchildren).

-Jos de Block is the secretary of the Professional Coordinator, and also helps the professional staff. She is the HQ expert in making arrangements for meeting accommodation and for welcoming IFLA members and other visitors on holiday in Austria (of course she cannot do that in the Netherlands...)

-Dini Verschoor, Financial Assistant, deals with banking transactions and keeps the books in order. (Right now, she is enjoying learning how to do electronic banking!). Her hobby is fishing: the

staff has not decided if this is relevant to her IFLA work or not.

Jos and Dini are Dutch, and have worked at IFLA HQ for many years and are familiar to IFLA members.

Hanny Duijvestijn, who is also Dutch, started working as Administrative Assistant at IFLA HQ in 1994. She is rapidly and enthusiastically learning all about the complexities of a world-wide organisation.

-Sophie Felfldi, who was born in Hungary, is the Personal Assistant to the Secretary General. She was originally trained in classical music, but has developed expertise in computer applications, particularly the use of the Internet. (In fact, sometimes the staff thinks she talks to the computers and they talk back to her! Her favourite animal is the IFLA 'gopher...')

-Theresa Stanton is the Publications Assistant. She has lived in the Netherlands since 1983, after graduating from the University of London (UK) with a degree in Oriental Studies. She joined the IFLA HQ staff in 1991. She is responsible for the in-house production of IFLA's publicity materials and professional reports. (In fact, Theresa shares her time between IFLA and FID: she is also Head Publications at FID and editor of the FID News Bulletin.)

As can be imagined, daily work at IFLA HQ is a complex mixture of policy discussions, detailed planning of activities, discussions with Section officers and other colleagues (by phone, fax and - increasingly - electronic mail), drafting reports, mailing out publications, compiling conference papers, writing minutes, and answering mountains of correspondence from all around the world from members and non-members. The staff is also frequently in contact with other national and international organisations.

The main working language of HQ is English, but the staff also works in French and Dutch, and occasionally German and Hungarian. They can read Spanish (though they cannot write it - at least, not yet). Life at HQ is frequently a babel of languages and accents, but everyone understands each other!

In such a small secretariat, many tasks have to be done in common, and the staff is flexible. IFLA members should not be surprised if they write to one staff member and get the answer back from another: the expertise and experience of the staff is wide. The answer may not come back instantly, particularly in the busiest period of the year - in some cases HQ staff will need to consult widely, and in other cases they will call on senior members of IFLA for advice, but the staff will always do their best to solve problems and advise members as quickly as possible, in the best IFLA tradition.

Winston Roberts, IFLA HQ, 30 May 1994.

• IFLA REGIONAL SECTION ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

• **Medium-term plan 1992 - 1995**, a proposal sent by Blanca Hodge, IFLA/LAC/SC Member Nature and Purpose

The section is concerned with establishing closer links among national library associations as well as with librarians in order to work together in the promotion and development of the library and information services of the region.

Objectives

- 1) Promote the strengthening of national and regional associations by encouraging them to participate in IFLA.
- 2) Encourage the development of library and information services in the region.
- 3) Improve the involvement of the region in the IFLA Core Programmes.

Goals for 1992 - 1997

- 1) Widen the participation of Latin American and Caribbean associations and institutions in IFLA.
- 2) Increase cooperative activities in professional training and education of librarians and information professionals.
- 3) Promote knowledge and use of new technologies in different types of libraries
- 4) Seek to have better knowledge of library development in the region through improved communication channels.

Activities

- 1) Seek to increase the number of associations and institutions in membership of IFLA.
- 2) To improve the participation of the region in the work and management of the association through representation on Round Tables, Sections and other bodies.
- 3) Seek funding in order to carry out regional and sub-regional seminars and workshops for continuing education and training.
- 4) Work out strategies and agreements for attachments.
- 5) Strengthen the infra-structure of the regional office in order to extend its activities in the region.

• Meeting of the Standing Committee, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 17 and 19 April, 1994

Miriam Martinez (Cuba) kindly substituted the Secretary, absent in the Meeting. Many members came to the Meeting with the support of UNESCO that invited them to represent their countries at the Workshop for Training of Professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean, described below.

Brief news on the subjects treated:

- information on the ALP Consulting Board held in Uppsala, Sweden, and on the general situation of projects; more news on the meeting under the ALP heading:

- coordination and relationship between the three IFLA regional sections. Maria Elena Zapata has been invited to participate in the Pan-African

Seminar on Information Services in Rural Areas, to be held in June, in Bostwana. In Cuba it is going to be held an Workshop and an Open Forum On Preservation and Conservation with speakers from Africa, Venezuela and Asia. The National Library of Brazil could also present its special programme on the subject during the Open Forum;

- The National Library of Brazil offered to organise a seminar on Preservation and Conservation for Latin America and the Caribbean. A project should be presented to ALP and to IFLA PAC Programme for the funding of it;
- a pilot project from the Interlibrary Section to small cities in 1 to 3 countries to be presented in Cuba. A leaflet on the COMUT, a 14 years old successful Brazilian programme was handed out to the Section members;
- the discussion on book donation ended up considering that it is needed a beforehand coordination;
- it was handed out to members the update list of the Clearing House Publications;
- the results of the IFLA meetings Trends II of the Professional Board (PB). The LAC Section will present a project aiming at the evaluation of the results achieved by the participation on IFLA pre seminars. From 1995 on the number of projects approved by the BP depends on the number of members in the region;
- each member of the SC should arrive in Cuba bringing a new IFLA membership subscription;
- the Caucus of Portuguese Speaking countries, as recommended by the Rio de Janeiro Statement, 1994, should be included in the Cuba Conference;
- fellowships, grants, twinning was the object of discussions; it has been suggested the adoption of the Asian model for it;
- Miriam Martinez talked about the enthusiasm of Cuban librarianship in receiving professionals from all over the world and stated the professional value of the Conference with its 17 workshops. The transportation fare from hotels to the Conference venue is included in the subscription.
- the suggestion of the PB to include a correspondent member of each IFLA geographical region in each IFLA section;
- many items concerning the internal organization of the Section were discussed in the meeting. The complete minute of the Meeting is available at the Regional Office.

ALP NEWS

- The ANNUAL REPORT of the ALP Programme is available at the Regional Office.

- ALP is sponsoring the Follow up Workshop on the Seminar of Library Services for the Blind, to be held in Cuba during the Conference

• IFLA ALP Brainstorming Meeting of ALP Advisory Committee and the Coordinating Board of Division VIII.

Uppsala, Sweden, April 1994

According to a Report by Ivone Talamo, SC/IFLA/LAC Member who sent a briefing of the main subjects treated.

Promotion: The meeting was promoted by ALP with the support of Swedish Institutes

Local: "Carolina Rediviva Library", University of Uppsala, Sweden

Participants: Members of the ALP Advisory Committee from IFLA Regional Division

Objective: Discuss the ALP Program, its results, projects, future activities and the role of the Regional Division.

Main subjects treated in the Meeting:

1. ALP

It was discussed the transference of the focal point to one of the three regions after 1997. There is a possibility of the Nordic countries continue to support the programs until 2000 even if the focal point is moved from Uppsala. It has been discussed the necessity of the Regional Offices to strengthen their role in the regions to support ALP.

1.1 Projects

After all projects were analyzed the results are as follows:

- They should aim at the necessities of the region and they should have strong support from an institution for their continuity;

- Projects aimed at the general public should be stimulated;

- Latin America and the Caribbean should define its priority before developing its projects. It was mentioned an Asia project to identify the region necessities which can be used as a model. Of the LAC Region selected projects 11 aimed at human resources (7 of them were seminars) and two aimed the general public;

- The relationship of IFLA/LAC with other IFLA programmes should be improved;

- Projects concerning events should be criteriously analyzed specially on their objectives, continuity and results.

2. Financial Resources

Aiming at the increase of financial support to the development of regional activities it was suggested some forms to obtain additional financial resources, such as:

- The selling of advertisements in the Newsletters;

- The development of joint projects with other organizations;

- The relationship with cultural projects financial agencies;

- The development of joint projects with other IFLA programmes;

- Holding meetings of the SC together with events in the Region.

A working group composed by the presidents of the three regional sections is going to analyze the participation of the third world in IFLA and present the results at the General Conference in Cuba. The report draft by this group will be sent to the regional managers for their comments. The deadline is July 15th 1994 and its version will be in English and French.

3. Division of Regional Activities.

The following subjects have been treated:

- strengthening of the internal organization of the sections with well defined personal responsibilities and of the relations with other IFLA divisions;
- improve the programmes of action in the region and motivate SC members giving them specific tasks to develop;

- identify priorities concerning projects, specify objectives and products;

- ALP will finance every three years the CB meeting;

- reorganize the structure of the section in order to know what to do and how to do it;

- become self sufficient and independent;

4. Events

Joint activities of the three regional sections:

4.1 General Conference in Habana/Cuba, 1994

- open forum with speakers of the regions; funding have been applied for;

4.2 Istanbul, Turkey, 1995

- OPEN FORUM: should have speakers of the three regions and the theme is "Enhancement of the Library Profession";

- Workshop: the theme will be "Network and Virtual Libraries";

- Contributed paper competition: suggested theme "Virtual library: Reality, Possibility or Pie in the Sky".

- Pre-Seminar: suggested theme "Influence of Decision Makers in Library Planning"

4.3 Beijing, China, 1996

- Open forum: it will be organized and coordinated by the Asia & Oceania Regional Section;

- Workshop: theme "Literacy and library in China";

- Pre-Seminar: it has been suggested the theme "Library and South-South Cooperation".

4.4 Pre-Seminars

It will be analysed the results of the pre seminars, the time and costs involving their organization. It has been suggested to make a study and to develop a methodology on them.

It has been decided:

- that the Office Regional Managers will prepare a historical compiling of these pre seminars in their regions and that the presidents of the regional sections will prepare a survey with the objective of verifying results, multiplication effect, work developed by participants etc. Stela Morales, secretary of the LAC Section will collaborate with a data base project;

- UNESCO will stop funding the pre seminars.

5. Data base of financial agencies

The three regional sections should develop a project to identify in each country funding agencies, giving their name, address, kind of sponsorship etc. It is a task to be developed by the SC members.

6. Specialists data base

A common project for the three geographical areas in connection with library associations and in coordination with UNESCO.

7. Seminar on Librarianship in the Third World, Stockholm, April 11, 1994

After the ALP Meeting, the Swedish Library Association promoted in the office of SIDA a Seminar on Librarianship in the Third World. The meeting had participants from 40 institutions. The papers have been presented by representatives of the three regions and by the IFLA/ALP representative.

- 2nd Latin American, 17th Brazilian Congress of Library Science and Documentation. Birgitta Bergdahl was present and introduced the ALP Programme to participants.

- 2nd Meeting of Portuguese Language Librarians. ALP cosponsored the event.

• Projects

The following projects were considered the best: The creation of an association of library schools for the South Cone countries (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) which led to a very good cooperation among these countries, aimed at harmonizing library education and achieving a division of labour between the countries. One of the products is a database, maintained at the School of Library Science and Documentation at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The project was highly praised at the Unesco workshop and the database was proposed to become the nucleus of a database, covering all Latin America and run by the school in Buenos Aires. The ALP prestudy which has led to a reconstruction of the Latin-American database INFOBILA (run by UNAM in Mexico) in cooperation with several countries was regarded very highly in Uppsala and at the two events in Belo Horizonte. The IFLA-support and advice now has strong institutional linkages in the region after the meeting with took place as a part of the pre-study. The information can be exchanged with institutions in Brazil, Costa Rica and Cuba, where copies of the data-base exist. The database is also much better promoted in the region and is widely accessible.

The project to serve indigenous communities in Amazonas, Venezuela with public library services is not completed but was praised because of its service character and its ambitions to reach new readers with reading material and information in their own languages. It has also successfully linked up ties with other actors, such as an NGO. The Seminar on Library Services to the Visually

Handicapped is a good example of an important conference, the result of which is not only an exchange of knowledge and information and proceedings, which are now being published, but also a long term commitment from ALP and the Regional Section. The resolutions from the Seminar will be followed up, starting with the workshop in Havana. The work engages ALP, the RSC LAC, the Section of Libraries for the Blind, the Latin American Blind Union and national institutions and associations in the region.

ALP has supported financially four other conferences in Latin America: "Latin American Seminar on Official Publications" in Mexico, 1991; the 'Second Regional Meeting on the Status and Strategies for Development of Public Libraries in Latin America' in Venezuela, 1992; the "First Ibero-American meeting for Parliamentary Libraries", Mexico, 1993; and "BIBLOS 2000 - Second Latin American, 17th Brazilian Congress of Library Science and Second Meeting of Portuguese speaking librarians" in Brazil, in 1994.

Priorities
The following priorities for the future were decided in Belo Horizonte:

1. To prioritize the two Caribbean projects "Survey of national information resources and services in the member states of the OECS and review plans for development" and the Advanced Course Library Personnel Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles". To give continued support to INFOBILA. To finish the South Cone cooperation project by supporting the last phase.
2. To create an attachment programme in the region.
3. To adapt the model workshop from Asia and Oceania on the assessment of needs and how to write project applications and apply it either in Central America or in Chile in connection with the next RSC meeting and UNESCO Seminar. Unesco PGI in Venezuela will support the translation of guidelines and other background material.
4. It is still a wish of the committee to hold a practical workshop in Peru to compare experiences from services to minorities in remote or border areas in cooperation with the neighbouring countries, in spite of all the difficulties this project has encountered.
5. To support cooperation between Brazil and the Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. This will be a follow-up to the "Second Meeting of Portuguese language librarians", in Brazil, April 1994. It is hoped that UNESCO will support the development of the database of library schools in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To cooperate with the ALP International Focal Point in the development of the database of donors within the library field.

General recommendations for the future

The regional goals need to be defined more clearly so that the individual projects are placed

in a context. All projects should have strong institutional linkages. Projects which aim at developing services to the public should be encouraged more. To this end one should establish cooperation with researches and with NGOs and other actors. Cooperation with other IFLA Core Programmes and Sections; and with other organizations and institutions should be promoted. Also in Latin America the programme is hampered by limited human resources and poor representation of one sub-region, Central America. The capacity must be reinforced. Part of a report to be presented by Birgitta Bergdahl in Cuba.

NEWS IFLA AFFILIATES AND MEMBERS IN THE REGION

• ACURIL

ACURIL is the acronym for Association for Caribbean, Research and Institutional Libraries, and was founded in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Association of Caribbean Universities (UNICA), organized in 1967, to promote Caribbean Universities inter-cooperation, recognized the need of library cooperation in the region. In the 1968 annual meeting of UNICA, papers were presented on the theme of library cooperation. This Association sponsored the first Caribbean conference on university and research institutes library cooperation, hosted by the University of Puerto Rico in June 1969, in San Juan. Forty delegates from the Caribbean region and observers from other areas attended the meeting. At this conference the Association of Caribbean University and Research Institute Libraries (ACURIL) was born to meet the need for a joint approach to cooperative acquisition, cooperative bibliographic indexing and microfilming, and four working committees were set up for these areas. Resolutions were adopted stressing the control of government publications in the Caribbean. The Constitution outlined the association's aims as follows:

- to facilitate the development and use of libraries and the identification of library collections in support of the whole range of intellectual endeavors throughout the Caribbean area.
- to strengthen the profession of librarianship in the region.
- to promote cooperative library activities in pursuit of these objectives.

Membership was opened to "University and research libraries situated within the Caribbean archipelago and the mainland countries or the states of the United States which border the

Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico, including the Guianas".

Libraries located outside the region with collections pertinent to the Caribbean were admitted as associate members.

Later - in response to the need of development of the association - some changes have taken place in the organization. In 1976, the association opened its doors to other kinds of libraries, and the word institutes was changed to institutional, thus becoming the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries.

In 1986 ACURIL widened its scope again by opening up to library associations, libraries, archives and information centres and its personnel. By keeping pace with the demands of its membership ACURIL has grown over the years. From 25 to 100 institutional members has been paralleled by the attendance of annual conferences rising from around 50 at first to 250 at present.

Moreover, all the four official language groups of the area - Dutch, English, French and Spanish - are now fully represented in ACURIL's membership which spans 31 countries and islands. To many Caribbean librarians ACURIL is synonymous to people. So strong have been the personal bonds forged over the years that not a conference passes without gifts being exchanged between the regular attendees. Equally, to many ACURIL is the professional stimulation derived from the annual conferences and all that takes place in both formal and informal discussion. To all, ACURIL is the Caribbean library cooperation, continuing education and camaraderie par excellence.

By fostering unity among library, information and archives personnel, by developing a scholarly approach to the profession and by generating a new sense of self-esteem and confidence among its members, ACURIL has effectively set its seal on inter-library-relations throughout the region and beyond.

ACURIL is the mechanism through which the professionals in the Caribbean are exposed to new developments in the Library and Information Sector. It is the mechanism that brings together all these librarians from different backgrounds, different types of libraries and different language groups to find out if and where there is common ground to work upon.

On an annual basis conferences are mounted, the themes of which, are chosen by the president. This theme is dealt with in a variety of ways, by a variety of people, and from a variety of viewpoints. It is done in such a way that all professionals will find something of interest in the presentations.

The ACURIL official languages are English, French and Spanish, and there is simultaneous interpretation during all plenary sessions.

All plenary sessions are followed by discussions, ensuring a two-way communication, and much of the discussion continues during coffee-breaks, lunch breaks and continues into the social gatherings of the evening.

Some of the topics:

1969: Library cooperation and information.

1984: Automation and information in the Caribbean.

1986: Continuing education of librarians in the Caribbean.

1992: Management of resources in Caribbean libraries and information centres.

1994: Diversity and integration in the Caribbean
The committees and special interest groups meet twice or three times during the week, and work on joint projects that are carried out throughout the year.

The membership of ACURIL consists of various categories:

(a) Institutional members:

Libraries, archives and schools conducting programmes of library or archival education.

(b) Library related non-profit organizations of two classes:

(1) National library associations; and

(2) Regional and other special organizations and associations.

(c) Personal members:

(1) Regular members - librarians and archivists, other employees of libraries or archives, and others interested in library, archival, or related services and activities, with certain exceptions.

(2) Student members - members who are enrolled at least half time in a programme of library, archival or information science.

(3) Non-salaried librarians. (4) Honorary members.

During the recently concluded annual meeting - which marked twenty-five years of ACURIL - the following board was elected:

Ms Shirley Yearwood (President)

Prof. Arturo Fernandez Ortiz (Immediate past president)

Ms Willamae Johnson (Vice-president)

Mrs Oneida Ortiz (Secretary)

Ms Joan Hayes (Treasurer)

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Briefing sent by Blanca Hodge, IFLA/LAC/SC member

• **ARGENTINA**

• IFLA publication Guide to official publications

of Foreign Countries is available to users at the Centro de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas, 25 de Mayo 217, 4º piso, Buenos Aires.

- The Regional Office received the publication CONABIP Informa newsletter from the National Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries, office at Ayacucho 1578, Buenos Aires, Argentina which brings news on the National Congress of Public Libraries, held in September 1993, at the National Library.

- The XXVIII National Meeting of Librarians was held in Buenos Aires, from March 31 to April 3, 1994, organized by ABGRA, Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados, República Argentina. ABGRA also sponsors courses as LILACS Management and Methodology to be held in August and Thesaurus, in October. Informe ABGRA - Av. Corrientes 1643, 1º piso, dpto.22 - Cuenpo 1042, Buenos Aires, Argentina - tel/fax: 382-4821.

- The World Congress on Reading, from the International Reading Association will be held in Buenos Aires, in July.

- Josefa Sabor - The first prize Academia Nacional de la Historia, Obras Inéditas, 1991-1992 has been given to this renowned and praised Argentine librarian. Her work to improve librarianship in Latin America is well recognized by every librarian in this region.

- The 8th Jornadas de Arquitectura Educacional y Bibliotecaria were held in May at the National Library with the participation of government authorities in education and professionals from the 23 Argentina States. The librarians had a chance to expose the role of libraries in primary, basic general and polimodal and superior education (categories according to the new structure of the educational system in the country, under the Federal Education Law).

News sent by Stella Maria Fernandes, member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Regional Section of Latin American and Caribbean.

• BRAZIL

- BIBLOS 2000, the II CLABD, Latin American Congress of Library Science and Documentation, the XVII Brazilian Congress of Library Science and Documentation, were successfully held in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, from 12 to 18 April, 1994 with 1.800 participants. The Regional Office collaborated in the organization of the events specially interacting (indicating, inviting, receptioning) Latin American Professionals who answered the call participating in the meetings. IFLA Headquarters was represented by Birgitta Bergdahl, APL Programme Coordinator who introduced the Programme to participants. Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Assistant, ALP focal point also attended the meeting.

- The II Meeting of Portuguese Speaking Librarians held in April 3-8, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, organized by the Brazilian Federation of Library

Associations, FEBAB, promoted by FEBAB and by the Portuguese Association of Librarians and Archivists (BAD), ended up with the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro with proposals of projects and actions to be undertaken by Brazil, Portugal and by the African Portuguese speaking countries. The joint projects Brazil/Portugal/African countries will be present to the ALP programme that sponsored the presence of two African participants to the Meeting and to BIBLOS 2000.

- The Casa da Leitura (Reading House) of the National Library is a new experiment toward reading promotion with its programmes: Meeting the reader, Talking on reading, Reading Circle, and The time and hour of Storytellers. Further information: Casa da Leitura - Rua Pereira da Silva, 86 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 22221-140.

- V Seminario sobre Automação de Bibliotecas e Centros de Documentação, 19-22 July, 1994, São José dos Campos, São Paulo, promoted by the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais and Universidade do Vale do Paraíba. Information: INPE - Setor de Eventos, Av. dos Astronautas, 1758 - Caixa Postal 515 - 12201-970 - São José dos Campos, SP

- International Seminar on the Challenges of the Information Era: Agents and Users, São Paulo, 18- October, 1994. Sub-themes: Interconnectivity and Navigation, Users and Health Science Specialized Systems, Scientific Production, Information in Health Sciences and Megatrends. Promoted by BIREME - Latin America and the Caribbean Centre for Health Sciences Information, Pan American Health Organization. LILACS and Micro Isis courses will be offered before and during the event. Subscription: US\$ 100,00. Further information: BIREME/OPAS - Rua Botucatu, 862 - 04023-901 - São Paulo, SP - Brazil. Fax: 55-11-571 1919. E.mail: crics@bireme.br.

- II Workshop on Marketing and Public Relations, Campinas, São Paulo, 20-22 October, 1994. Promotion: Associação Paulista de Bibliotecários - Rua Maestro Cardim 94 - Caixa Postal 343 - São Paulo, SP 01323-000. Tel./Fax: 55-11-2853831. Subscription: US\$ 35,00.

- The Regional Office received from the Associação Nacional de Pesquisa e Pós/Graduação em Ciências de Informação a report on the XII Brazilian Meeting on Graduate Courses in Library and Information Science, held in São Paulo, 1992, meeting that analyzed the graduate courses in the country.

• MEXICO

- The Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (CUIB), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Torre II de Humanidades, piso 12 y 13, Ciudad Universitaria, Circuito Interior, C.P. 04510, México, D.F., Fax: 550 7461, e.mail: cssosa@unam1. dgsc.unam.mx. publishes material of great interest to librarians (monographs and the journal Investigación Bib-

liotecológica). It also promotes continuous education courses. Next September the Center is promoting the course "Introducción a los estudios métricos de información".

• INFOBILA - Information and Latin America Library Science is a data base coordinated by CUIB with 5.000 references of material that can be searched or photocopied. E.mail: biblio@unamvm1.dgsca.unam.mw. Costs: on line search: US\$ 1.00; print out reference: US\$ 0.50 each. INFOBILA has received funds from the IFLA/ALP Programme for its preliminary studies and study travels (US\$ 10.368,00).

• **SINT MAARTEN/ ST MARTIN**

Sint Martin (St.Maarten, St.Martin) is an island of 86 square kilometers (37 square miles). It is situated in the Caribbean sea (63 degrees West and 18 degrees North) and has an average temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. The island is divided in a French (North = St Martin) and Dutch (South = St Maarten) side. The French side is considered a part of Guadeloupe - a French Department and the Dutch side forms together with four other islands (Bonaire, Curacao, Saba and St.Eustatius) the Netherlands Antilles, an "autonomous" partner in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. There are no real boundaries between the two sides, but each side has its own government, schools and library.

There are three official languages on Sint Martin: Dutch, French and English. On the Dutch side: Dutch and English and on the French side: French. Due to a large influx of foreign workers - in pursuit of a more prosperous future - Spanish and Haitian Creole are widely spoken as well. The small island - with a population of approx. 80.000 - is inhabited by people of all the Caribbean islands and countries, as well as people, originating from India (mostly merchants), China (grocers and owners of laundries), American business venturers and retirees and South African yachtsmen. The European Dutch and especially French are very much present in all sorts of positions and occupations.

The French side has a fully air-conditioned library with a stock of 35.000 documents, and a staff of fifteen. There is one fully qualified librarian. The annual circulation in 1993 was over 107.000. The library has collections in the schools (23.500) and small collections in the hospital and the senior citizens home.

The Dutch side has an open air, fully automated library with a stock of 50.000, a staff of twelve, of which five fully qualified librarians. The annual circulation in 1993 was over 95.000. The collection is fully bilingual (Dutch and English) with small collections in French, Spanish and German. The Dutch side has a bookmobile that visits all primary schools that are not in the direct vicinity of the library on a once-every-two-weeks basis,

and intends to open its first branch library (the old bookmobile) in August upcoming.

News sent by Blanca Hodge, IFLA/LAC/SC member, Woman of the Year, Sint Martin "From the day she took charge of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library in 1968 she worked tirelessly to create an institution which should provide any individual, young or old, educated or hungry for knowledge, legally residing on the island or not, with a maximum opportunity to learn and progress... Worldwide she is highly regarded not just for her organizational talents, her know-how, but first and foremost for her vision. A vision that any library on the local level is a most powerful tool for the development of people."...The Caribbean Herald, 3 (33), Jan.1994.

**GENERAL NEWS OF
INTEREST TO THE REGION**

• First Workshop Aiming at the Drafting of a Regional Coordinated Planning of Training of Information Professionals in Latin América and the Caribbean.

The report can be find at the Spanish version of the Newsletter and it will be published in English in the next issue.

• CERLALC, Regional Centre for BOOK Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean - Calle 70, no.9-52 - Apartado Aéreo 57348, Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia. Fax: 255 4614, publishes a series of books of great interest to professionals in our Region, in Spanish.

• The XXXIX SALALM was held in Park City Utah. Its theme was "Modernity and traditions: on the development of the new literature in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1956 and 1994".

• FID GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE AND CONGRESS, Tokyo, October 2-9, 1994. Theme: "Finding new values and uses of information". All correspondence should be addressed to: 47 FID 94 Organizing Committee - Prof.Yuzury Fujiwara, The University of Tsukuba, The Inst. of Electronics and Information Science, Tsukuba, Ibraki, 305 JAPAN - Fax: 81-298-53 5206.

• **INTERNET**

Originally developed and used mainly for academic research, the Internet is now used by commercial organizations for electronic mail, file transfers, remote login and discussion groups and, more recently for distributed database searching. Organizations and individuals are rapidly recognizing the importance of the Internet as a powerful information and communication tool. It has approximately 20 million users.

- **BOOKS FOR ALL** is a joint project (UNESCO, IFLA) which aims at providing children and young people in developing countries with reading materials. Additional information: **BOOKS FOR ALL** - Brunhildenstr.34 - D-80639 München, Germany. Fax: 49-89-2607896.

- **BOOKS & JOURNALS** in Library and Information Science

The Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, N.Y. 13904-1580 is publishing an impressive number of titles on different subjects such as: management, staff, popular culture, libraries and the future, music bibliography, electronic archives etc. A book that might interest our regions is *Discovery in the archives of Spain and Portugal*, edited by Lawrence J. McCrank.

- **CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACIÓN**

The Institute for Scientific and Technical Documentation and Information (IDICT) of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba is publishing, in coordination with the Cuban Society for Scientific and Technical Information, this journal. Price for annual subscription: US\$ 50,00 + US\$ 15,00 for certified air mail.

- **REVERSE LIBRARY FELLOWS**

Funded by the United States Information Agency and Administered by the American Library Association has a fourfold purpose; 1) to increase international understanding through the establishment of professional and personal relationships and the accomplishment of mutual goals; 2) to promote international sharing of resources and to increase access to U.S. materials in the host country; 3) to reinforce the concept of libraries as essential democratic institutions, and 4) to enable librarians to enrich and broaden their career experiences through a short period of overseas service. Fellows from our Region: Shirley E. Ainsworth de Martinez, del Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City and Rizio Bruno Sant'Ana, from the Mario de Andrade Library, São Paulo, Brazil. Information on the Program: Mr. Robert P. Doyle, American Library Association, International Relations Round Table, 50 Huron Street, Chicago, ILL. 60611, USA.

- **UNESCO**

Meeting of experts

UNESCO/PGI for Latin American and the Caribbean has published the Final Report on the "Meeting of Experts for the Definition of Regional Information Strategies in Latin American and the Caribbean", held in Caracas, March, 1994. The Regional Office Clearing House received a copy of it.

Memory of the World - is a new approach to the safeguarding of the endangered recorded memory of mankind held in libraries and archives, to the democratization of access to these holdings and their wider dissemination. In close cooperation with IFLA and with the International Council on Archives (ICA), Unesco is establishing the following inventories: a) a list of library collections and archive holdings that have suffered

irreparable damage; b) a list of current activities aimed at the safeguarding of documentary heritage; c) a World List of Endangered Library Collections and Archive Holdings. Pilot programs have been launched in Latin America, Prague, Sofia and Saint Petersburg. Others projects are to be carried out in Turkey and Yemen. (*)

Index translationum on CD-ROM - It contains more than 600.000 bibliographic references from about 100 countries. It is available for US\$200,00 at all UNESCO sales agents, or maybe purchased directly from UNESCO publishing and Sales Division. (*)

New publication: James, Sylvia R.H. *Introduction to policies on marketing library and information services*. Paris, Unesco, 1994. 44 pg. (PGI-93/WS/19) (*)

- Transcribed from PGI UNISIST Newsletter, 22 (1), 1994.

The 2nd edition of the CD-ROM Latin American Databases which contains 53 databases of 12 Latin American countries was presented as a joint work between the University of Colima, Mexico, and UNESCO/PGI in Caracas, 1993. One thousand copies have been available for free distribution. Contact address: Mr. I. Fernandez-Aballi, PGI Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean, Apdo. 68394, Caracas, 1062-A, Venezuela. Fax: (58-2) 283 1411. (**)

In order to promote the use of new technologies in the field of information in Latin America and the Caribbean, PGI has prepared, under contract with the Fundación Nacional de Costa Rica, a self-education video/cassette and manual entitled *Guia práctica para la comunicación electrónica*, covering the main aspects for the connection and use of an e-mail workstation and using the network Hurricane. The material is distributed by PGI/LAC, see address above. (**)

- **ADONIS** is installing its system in ten developing countries. The University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica has been granted a subscription covering journals published in 1991 and 1992.

- Transcribed UNISIST Newsletter, 21 (2), 1993. UNESCO Network of Associated Libraries (UNAL). A workshop was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia. One of the objectives of the meeting was to make the network known in that country. If you want to join UNAL please contact Antje Schurek, PGI, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris 07 SP, France, Fax: (331) 43061640.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Please see PUBLICACIONES RECIBIDAS in the Spanish Text.

IFLA ALP Advisory Committee Meeting and Coordinating Board of the Regional Division, Uppsala, Sweden, April 1994.



Henri Sène (RM/Africa) from left, Kay Raseroka (chair, RSC/África), Maria Elena Zapata (Chair, CB, Chair, RSC/LAC), Estela, Morales Campos (Secretary, RSC/LAC), Ivone Tálamo (SC, RSC/LAC) and Birgitta Bergdahl (ALP Core Programme Director)



Vasiti Donita Simmons (Secretary, CB, Chair, RSC/A&O), from left to right, A.P. Gakhar (Secretary, RSC/A&O), Stanislaus M. Made (SC, RSC/Africa) and Pensri Guaysuwan (RM/A&O)

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This Newsletter is published twice a year in June and December by IFLA's Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean. It is a major communication tool for IFLA members in the Region. Please share your ideas and experiences by sending your contributions and suggestions to the Regional Office.

We would appreciate your criticism and suggestions for the next NEWSLETTER.

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