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Nancy Anderson

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Nancy D. Anderson
Member of the IFLA Standing Committee, Science and Technology Libraries Section, and Mathematics Librarian Emerita, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

For several years now I have reported in *Sci-Tech News* on IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) conference activities, with particular attention to those sponsored by the Section of Science and Technology Libraries. This year IFLA held its sixty-sixth annual conference in Jerusalem August 12–18, 2000. The timing of this year’s conference led to some interesting sights—we saw dozens of couples getting married. Since IFLA began immediately after the Three Weeks mourning period, several weddings were held each evening in our hotels. Jerusalem’s climate (hot and dry during the day and cool at night) and topography (very hilly) resembles the American Southwest. Thus, I would take a taxi from my hotel in the morning (taxi drivers in Jerusalem always seemed to want to take you to Bethlehem or to a relative who sold carpets rather than the short trip to the conference center) and walk down the hill to the hotel at the end of the day.

Our Israeli hosts were very cordial and planned a great conference for all of us. More than 1,800 librarians attended. There were 400 Israeli participants at the Jerusalem Conference, followed by 265 Americans. Palestinian and other Islamic librarians boycotted the siting of the conference in Jerusalem, so attendance figures were less than those of other recent IFLA conferences. However, it means that IFLA in Boston should be a really BIG conference!

The conference center was modern, with excellent meeting rooms and up-to-date computer facilities. This year 244 meetings (24 with Simultaneous Interpretation), 30 poster sessions, and 26 workshops were held. The receptions were, as always, great fun and an excellent opportunity to exchange views with friends and colleagues from all over the world. In particular, the reception at the Israel Museum left delegates awed and appreciative, as we were able to view a number of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book. And almost all of us took advantage of the free guided tours of the Old City.

**Activities Sponsored by the Section of Science and Technology Libraries**

The Standing Committee (SC) of the Section of Science and Technology Libraries met twice. Ten SC members attended these meetings, from Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States (four). The chair/treasurer reported that membership in the section stands at 110. Among the topics discussed were the need to need to underwrite (either through the SC or IFLA) travel expenses of SC members from the Developing World, and advance planning for the next two IFLA conferences. Since I agreed to arrange the workshop/study tour for Boston (2001), we discussed how we could arrange visits to both a local special library (as corporate sci-tech libraries are rare outside North America) and either MIT or Harvard. It will follow along the same lines, as participants seem to like the idea of spending time with each other and their hosts. Julia Gelfand again agreed to work on putting together the program. Her idea is to build in some way on the program of the fall 2000 CAIP (AAAS Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs) meeting in Washington (“Scientific Information for Developing Countries: Meeting the Challenge”). Speakers could include individuals from scientific societies, SPARC, and foundations such as Open Society Institute and Carnegie. Please contact me if you have suggestions for libraries to visit in the Boston area or program speakers. All ideas from *STN* readers will be appreciated. David Price agreed to plan the workshop/study tour for Glasgow (2002). Cross-sectional digitization was discussed as a topic for the open session.

Nomination of new or returning members for 2001–2005 was another discussion item. The SC recognized that we need to recruit more members from France, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as other parts of the world, e.g., Argentina, China, Malaysia, Mexico, and
Philippines. Both Nancy Anderson and Pat Yocum will be leaving the committee in 2001, so it is important that two other North American sci-tech librarians replace them. IFLA has instituted a new rule making it much easier to be nominated: You need only one nomination from an institution or association that is a section member. Please e-mail me for more information, or David Bender to express your interest in having SLA nominate you. Nominations are due soon—I believe the deadline for nominations to IFLA is December with notification in April—so it is not too soon to start thinking about this.

Program

The section’s open session program on Tuesday, August 15, focused on the theme “Managing Science Libraries in an Increasingly Digital Environment.” Julia Gelfand did an excellent job of organizing and finding interesting speakers for this year’s program. More than ninety librarians listened to the three speakers and then participated in a long and lively discussion afterward. All agreed it was one of our best programs ever! Since the speakers submitted their papers well in advance, translations from English into French and German are available for the Roitberg and Poland papers. All papers are available on the IFLA Web site (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/).

The Influence of the Electronic Library on Library Management: A Technological University Library Experience, by Nurit Roitberg (Elyachar Central Library, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology Haifa, Israel.) E-mail: roitberg@tx.technion.ac.il

Abstract: The electronic library is growing fast in parallel to the traditional library. The high rate of growth is dictated by factors outside the library. Library administration is under a lot of pressure to achieve goals much faster than planned, adopt new technologies, compete with others in the groundplay of the information world, and be able to lead in this area. This process adds an enormous burden on library staff and budget.

The library should check and update its strategic plan and change priorities frequently. As a result, the workflow should be changed and librarians should adopt new and additional duties. This is a dynamic process that requires constant reexamination. The organization of electronic databases and e-journals, the migrating to new integrated library systems, the link between the print and electronic collections, the new type of reader help and guidance, and the growth of Web-based university teaching materials are affecting library management today. The library is facing new realities and must deal with them.

The old hierarchy and departmental division is not always applicable. Special work groups and assignments can be the answer. Also, employees can become part of the new mission on the basis of their specific knowledge and enthusiasm. Vision, leadership, and a new organizational culture based on professional achievement and pride are needed to motivate people to take part and invest more and more in additional goals.

In the electronic library era, new duties can grow such that a new job or department is created. Sometimes a major administrative change is needed in library systems where there is more than one library in the institution.

Library management at present and in the coming years needs a different approach in which flexibility, teamwork, and enthusiasm are the keywords.

Managing Academic Libraries in a Digital World: Institutional, Regional and National Developments in the UK, by Stephen Pinfield (Academic Services Librarian, University of Nottingham, U.K.)

Abstract: One of the important features of digital library development in U.K. higher education has been national co-ordination. Since 1994, the Higher Education Funding Councils have devoted considerable funds to a major research and development programme known as eLib (the Electronic Libraries Programme). National data centres have also been established that host data sets available to all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) at nationally agreed prices. Most recently, the concept of the Distributed National Electronic Resource has been formulated to take these developments forward in a strategically coordinated way.

This paper discusses the impact national initiatives such as these have had on individual HEIs in the UK. Written from the perspective of an institutional library manager (and former eLib project leader), this paper
examines the interface between local electronic library provision and national developments. Individual institutions have been active in taking forward the electronic library agenda both with and without earmarked government funding, but often the way in which this has been managed has been strongly influenced by the national strategy. The practical challenge has been to integrate locally provided digital resources with national resources (plus, of course, existing traditional library resources) in a coherent way for users. Examples of different ways in which this has been done are discussed, particularly in relation to the University of Nottingham and other research libraries.

New ways of working in library services have also been developed in many institutions, once again often accelerated by national initiatives. These include adopting project-based working, developing multiskilled teams, and forming institutional consortia. The consequences of this are examined.

U.K.-wide and institutional developments have thus far been most important, but there are now an increasing number of regional initiatives that are having an impact on library developments. These are briefly discussed.

**Cooperative Development of the Digital Library: Identifying and Working with Potential Partners**, by Jean Poland (Cornell University Library, Ithaca, N.Y. USA. E-mail: jp126@cornell.edu)

Abstract: In a university environment, the library can benefit from interest in the digital future on the part of other concerned groups. Computer science departments are natural partners in the development of digital libraries. Professional societies, for-profit companies, and foundations are also potential sources of support. Cornell University Library has worked closely with a variety of interested individuals and organizations in providing access to and preservation of digital materials. This paper describes the evolution of some of those projects and the resulting innovations and technology enhancements.

**Study Tour**

On Thursday, August 17, the Section for Science and Technology Libraries offered a study tour at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology Library, Haifa. Rivkah Frank, SC member from Israel, organized the study tour. She knew that since the Technion is widely considered the MIT of Israel, there would be a full busload of interested librarians traveling to Haifa. We were welcomed by the library director, Nurit Roitberg, whom we heard on Tuesday giving us the “theory” of electronic libraries—now we had the opportunity to inspect “the real world.” The Technion has twenty departmental libraries, each with 20,000–50,000 volumes and located in the same building as the faculty being served. All of us were impressed that there were two to four librarians in each of these departmental libraries. Two things I particularly remember: Technion faculty lecture videos available on the library computers for students unable to attend class due to Army reserve duty, and the sign banning cell phones in the Industrial Engineering Library. Study tour participants thought the tour and lunch were wonderful. On the return to Jerusalem, the group was treated to a visit to the Bahai temple perched on one of Haifa’s hillsides.

**Other IFLA 2000 programs**

The Internet Discussion Group, the Corporate and For-Profit Libraries Discussion Group, the Licensing of Electronic Information Resources Discussion Group, and the Marketing of Library Services to Academic Communities Discussion Group held meetings on Sunday and Monday to exchange ideas and information. Start-up meetings were held to consider a Metadata Discussion Group and a Digital Libraries Discussion Group.

On Tuesday, August 15, the Division of Special Libraries had its own program in addition to those organized by the sections. The program on authenticity of digital collections featured two speakers. In “Is Authenticity in Digital Collections Really an Issue?” Terry Kuny clarified the question and said it wasn’t an issue. Patrick McGlamery (SLA member) gave a very good paper, “Issues of Authenticity of Spatial Data,” even though there were no visual aids. He developed the concept of lineage of digital collections. A program on corporate intelligence is scheduled for Boston.

Also on Tuesday, Management and Marketing jointly with Information Technology and Social Sciences

Upcoming IFLA conferences