December 1997


Nancy Anderson

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INTERNATIONAL SCI-TECH LIBRARIANSHIP
A report of the 1997 IFLA Conference held in
Copenhagen, Denmark
By Nancy D. Anderson
Information Coordinator of the Standing Committee
Science and Technology Libraries Section

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 annual conference in Copenhagen from August 31st to September 5th. It was a record breaker with a total of 2,976 persons from 141 countries attending! Most delegates stayed in hotels in downtown Copenhagen (mine was a renovated 300 year-old warehouse overlooking the harbor) and took advantage of shuttlebuses to the Bella Center to attend sessions and committee meetings.

This year fellow SLA member Patricia Yocum was elected Chair of the Standing Committee (SC). Americans now make up a third of the SC, with Diane Ebro and Donna McCool joining Patricia and Marty Kesselman. I rejoined the SC after a 2 year stint with Serial Publications SC. Patricia promptly appointed me to a new position of Information Coordinator. Many other North American SLA delegates were appointed to the same position in their standing committees, e.g., Judith Bernstein, Una Gourlay, Jesus Lau, and David McQuillan. We really are being recognized as the information professionals!

Activities sponsored by the Section of Science and Technology Libraries:

Standing Committee meetings
SC met twice during the conference, on Saturday, August 30, from 9:00 to 11:50 and Friday, September 5 from 8:30 to 9:50. Items of interest include:
(1) Nancy Anderson announced that SLA's Science-Technology Division would award a travel stipend of up to $2,000 to a librarian outside the United States and Canada to attend the annual Special Libraries Association annual conference (in 1998 to be held 6-11 June in Indianapolis, IN);
(2) at the urging of Rosario Gassol de Horowitz (Biblioteca, Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas) the SC will assess the needs of sci-tech librarians in the developing world and develop plans for professional assistance, and (3) SC will investigate feasibility of having informal vendor updates (similar to those which some SLA divisions sponsor at annual conferences) with some of those exhibiting at IFLA.

Program
The Section's open session program on Wednesday, 3 September, was sponsored jointly with Biological and Medical Libraries on "Improving
Access to Electronic Scientific and Medical Information. The meeting room was packed, due interest in the topic and simultaneous interpretation. Abstracts of the presentations follow.

Please e-mail me at ndanders@uiuc.edu for more information. The full text of many of the papers listed below can be accessed on IFLA/Es website at: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifa

**Re-engineering the library for improved access to electronic health information: one research library's experience.** By Karen L. Graves and Elaine R. Martin (Library of the Health Sciences, UIC, Chicago)

**Abstract:** Organizational changes such as downsizing, reinventing the organization, mergers, and customer-focused services are buzz words for the 90's. One way that organizations are dealing with change is by re-engineering. Re-engineering is reinventing the way one does business, by stepping back and examining values, goals, and the systems processes used to meet these goals. Process redesign is often an outcome of this evaluation. However, the customer remains at the center of each process, with systems being redesigned to meet customer needs and demands.

Technical services at the University of Illinois at Chicago is going through the re-engineering process which has had a major impact on public services offered to library patrons. This paper will describe two of the re-engineering projects: access for electronic reserves and access to full-text journals. Issues related to these projects such as staff involvement and training, equipment, copyright, and user reactions to these new services are discussed.

**Changing roles of health science librarians in the electronic environment: providing instructional programs, improving access and advancing scientific communication.** By Ann C. Weller (Library of the Health Sciences, UIC, Chicago)

**Abstract:** The electronic environment has created significant role changes for health sciences and science librarians. This presentation will examine how librarians should expand their expertise into the areas of instructional programs, improving access, and advancing scientific communication. Librarians should design both training and instructional programs to help users understand and take advantage of electronic resources effectively. Three types of electronic access will be discussed: full-text with a print counterpart, unique electronic text, and electronic information available on the Internet. Access to electronic information raises a number of important issues: ownership, agreement with vendors, who uses the information, price, and the design or quality of the software systems. Librarians have the skills necessary to evaluate and organize health sciences information on the Internet. Librarians contribute to the growing body of scientific knowledge on the information seeking behavior of users and the evaluation of programs. Decisions for future directions should be based on scientific evidence.

**The Situation of science and technology libraries in Argentine universities: information access possibilities.** By Nancy Diana Gomez
and Maria Floriana Colombo (Biblioteca Central "Luís Federico Leloir", Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires)

Abstract: In Argentina, research in the basic sciences and technology is carried out for the most part within national universities. The ever-increasing demand for information is catered for by libraries in these institutions which is why they should be examined closely. We present an up-to-date survey on the situation of science and technology libraries in Argentine universities with respect to their capabilities for accessing electronic information. The state of libraries across the country is uneven, ranging from libraries with adequate information technology, and consequent access to services like electronic full text or electronic transmission of documents, to those which have only just started input into their first bibliographic databases. Nevertheless the demands of users in the area of science and technology has resulted in these information units developing faster than the other libraries in Latin America. The survey focuses on the developments which are leading to substantial improvement in access to information access, and also on the foundations of this development phase. The latter include: the QIUF (Quality Improvement of Universities Fund) Programme; the UIN (University Interconnection Network) Project, which connects state universities with each other and with the rest of the world; and finally the Science and Technology Information Workgroup working within MERCOSUR, whose aim is the regional integration in the information area as well as the optimal use of available resources. One of the main tasks of the library is to include itself and stand out in "the global village." Brazilian researcher and author in globalization phenomena, Octavio Ianni, states: "Electronic media will prevail as a powerful means to communicate, inform, and understand what is happening throughout the world." Various authors suggest a strong dependence of real economic development on timely access to information. Since science and technology are essential to economic development, science and technology libraries must have a proactive role in this process.

Electronic resources on campus: a degree of integration. By David J. Price (Radcliffe Science Library, Oxford University, Oxford)

Abstract: Over the past decade in the academic science and technology libraries of the UK, we have seen a growing dependency on electronic resources to the extent that bibliographic reference work is now almost exclusively conducted using electronic databases. The number of quality, refereed electronic journals is growing rapidly and we can expect them to be used either as an adjunct to hard copy or increasingly as substitutes. Electronic sources bring with them special problems of management, many of them technological, which in the world of books librarians have not had to confront before. They range from acquisition problems to access restrictions, authentication, copyright, preservation, software and the
user-interface. This paper will raise some of the more intransigent issues that confront us as we strive to integrate not only the electronic sources we provide for our readers, but electronic with traditional material.

Electronic journals and digital libraries: an overview of recent developments in DOI publishing. By Arnoud de Kemp (Springer Verlag, Heidelberg)

Summary: As Mr. De Kemp provided no abstract, I will summarize from my notes. Almost all STM publishers are working on electronic journals or books or launching new electronic ones. Versions are not clearly marked; we must be able to identify on Internet the electronic version of a printed paper journal. Central authentication will be wherever there is the login; the problem will be solved within 2 years cf. The credit card. He then spoke very enthusiastically about Digital Object Identifier (DOI). A group of publishers have begun implementing DOIs in a prototype that will be presented for the first time at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October, 1997.
For more information refer to the Internet address: http://www.doi.org.

Workshop

The Section sponsored a 4-hour workshop "Access to electronic sci-tech information," moderated by Marty Kesselman. The workshop was held Thursday, 4 September, offsite at the Rockefeller complex of the University of Copenhagen. Mette Stockmarr and David Price arranged for speakers. Susan Day spoke on "SilverPlatter's SilverLinker," Nick Mole on "OVID," Paul Williams on "Blackwell's electronic journal navigator," Joke Dijkstra on "EBSCO-host," and Jens Peter Winkler on "Munksgaard electronic journals."
Since these were informal discussions, I have no abstracts or papers.

Information which may be of interest

IFLA 1997 programs

Richard De Gennaro presented a paper on JSTOR: building an Internet accessible digital archive of retrospective journals at the Contributed Papers Session I, Sunday, 31 August.

There were 3 interesting papers given at the Open Session of University Libraries and other General Research Libraries on Tuesday, 2 September.

Svend Larsen (State and University Library, Aarhus) spoke on Financing and budgeting in a time of change: the state of the art in Denmark. Roswitha Poll (University Library, Munich) gave a very interesting paper on Cost analysis in academic libraries as did Hannelore B. Rader (University of Louisville Libraries, Louisville) on Creative financing of academic libraries in the next century.

Following this program was the first Guest Lecture. Sir Roger Elliott (Chair of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford) captured the attention of a large audience as he spoke on The impact of electronic publishing on the scientific information chain. He reported that the ICSU homepage has the report and
recommendations of a February 1996 ICSC/UNESCO conference on electronic scientific publishing. The full text of his paper should be published in the October/November issue of IFLA Journal.

After the guest lecture the Division of General Research Libraries and Division of Collections and Services held a "no-holds-barred" debate on: Issues in the Ownership and Availability of Electronic Information. A panel of 4 each took extreme positions for the positive and negative. I am sure the IFLA delegates had never heard anything like this before, but it did get the audience involved in a discussion of these issues.

Rounding out this very busy Tuesday was an interesting open session sponsored by the Roundtable on User Education on the theme "Library Gateways and User Education." Myung Chung Wilson (Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick) presented:

To dissect a frog or design an elephant: teaching digital information literacy through the library gateway. Two Scandinavian projects were reported on: Toini Alhainen (Jyvaskyla University Library, Jyvaskyla) on the Finnish virtual library project: a way to evaluated Internet resources and Nancy Fjallbrant et al on Into INFO (EDUCATE): WWW-based programs for information, training and access. The program ended with two papers from North America. Jesus Lau (Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, Juarez) discussed Patron empowerment to using library gateways in LID countries: the case for Mexico while Patricia Yocum (Shapiro Science Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) talked about Reaching out: using Web pages at the University of Michigan.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to a paper by Hazel Woodward and Paula Kingston (Project ACORN, Pilkington Library, Loughborough University, Loughborough) on "At what cost? Access to digitized journal articles."

This paper was presented at a workshop (held at the same time as the Sci-Tech Section's workshop) sponsored by Serial Publications, Acquisition and Collection Development, and UAP Core Program on the theme of "The New Economics of Publishing."

**Election results**

Mme Christine Deschamps (Bibliothèque de l'ÉtSversitè Paris V - Rene Descartes, Paris) was elected President of IFLA. Nancy John (University of Illinois, Chicago) was one of six elected to the Executive Board of IFLA. Her husband, Ed Valauskas, was re-elected Chair of the Division of Special Libraries and a member of the Professional Board.

**Prizes**

This year's Gustav Hofmann Study Grant was awarded to Ms. Wala Hasan Musnad (National Centre for Research of Sudan). She will use the grant to learn CDS/ISIS for future implementation in the NDC, particularly in her own section, which
deals with energy and sustainable development.

On the occasion of the retirement of Robert Wedgeworth, President of IFLA (1991-1997), the US National Associations in IFLA (SLA is one of them) have proposed the establishment of a special Fund for IFLA Conference Participation from the Developing World. The IFLA Executive Board accepted this proposal with great enthusiasm during the IFLA 97 Conference and will be working with the American library community and other interested colleagues to establish the particulars. More news of this will be posted on IFLA-L and on IFLA’s Web Site:
http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/Upcoming IFLA conferences

Amsterdam (16-21 August 1998): The theme for the conference is "At the Crossroads of Information and Culture." The SC decided that the their theme for the open session will be "How the electronic journal is affecting sci-tech librarianship." Philippe Raccah will organize this program. Marianne Nordlander will organize the workshop, which will consist of a field trip to Delft. For general information on the IFLA conference, e-mail: ifla@congres.nl

Bangkok (1999): The theme of the conference is "Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World." The SC will probably focus on preservation and conservation. For general information on the IFLA conference e-mail: exspafa@external.ait.ac.th

Jerusalem (2000)

Boston (2001)