

# Newsletter of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations

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Lucille C. Thomas, editor

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

After a successful conference in Jerusalem, the Section is preparing its activities for a midwinter meeting in Grenada, Spain and for the annual IFLA conference in Boston (USA). In this *Newsletter*, you will find information about the Satellite meeting sponsored by the Section in Buffalo, New York. 2001 is a voting year for new officers. We will have to welcome new members and say goodbye to those leaving office.

I believe in the special interest of all of us in the development of multiculturalism all over the library world.

We are waiting for your proposals that will build up or improve the section this year.

See you in Grenada and Buffalo in 2001.

Sound Hubert, Chair  
Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section

## MIDWINTER MEETING

FEBRUARY 26 -27, 2001

The midwinter meeting of the Section will be held in Grenada, Spain, during February 26 – 29, 2001. For additional information contact:

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## ACTION PLAN

### 2000

1. Midwinter meeting on February 28 - 29, 2000 in Elsinore, Denmark
2. Workshop in Jerusalem  
Theme: Library Service to Arabic Communities
3. Open session in Jerusalem  
Theme: New Research in the Multicultural Area
4. Update leaflet
5. Translations of the Section's *Guidelines* into French and Spanish
6. Include newsletter, publications, leaflet and the names of members on IFLANET

7. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Jerusalem (The above have been completed.)

## **2001**

1. Midwinter meeting in Spain
2. Satellite meeting in Buffalo
3. Workshop on "Library Service to American Indians" in Boston

## **2002**

1. Midwinter meeting
2. Satellite meeting in the Netherlands

## **67<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL AND GENERAL CONFERENCE OF IFLA**

LOCATION: Boston, Massachusetts, USA

DATE: August 16-25, 2001

THEME: Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age

The United States National Organizing Committee and the U. S. library community take great pleasure in inviting you to the 67<sup>th</sup> IFLA Council and General Conference.

IFLA 2001's stimulating programs and activities will offer you a wonderful opportunity to meet with your colleagues from around the world and to discuss issues, exchange ideas, and evaluate new innovations and products to improve your knowledge and the library services that you provide.

## **IFLA Satellite Meeting: Prior to the Boston IFLA Conference in August 2001**

Technology, Globalization, and Multicultural Services

Buffalo, New York

August 14 -16, 2001

### **Background**

The impact of the new technologies is pervasive worldwide. Borders shrink as communication networks and global information become a reality in this new environment, there are many challenges as well as benefits for multicultural services. The Satellite Meeting will examine three areas: technology, user requirements, and content.

The Internet and the World Wide Web have become the dominant technologies for delivering information worldwide. Not surprisingly, libraries around the world are searching for ways to integrate these technologies with existing services. This integration is particularly challenging in multicultural services for technical and pragmatic reasons. For example, Internet technology is not yet fully multi-lingual. Finding and presenting multilingual material poses a number of unique problems.

The objective of this Satellite Meeting is to examine some of these challenges and to present the approaches that are being used to overcome them.

### **Program**

The three areas being developed — technology, user requirements, and content — will offer different but related perspectives on multicultural, Internet based library services.

### **Technology**

What are the shortcomings of Internet technology for the presentation of multilingual material? Are there plausible solutions on the horizon? How soon will they be available and how much will they cost?

## **User Requirements**

What are some of the special features and requirements of Internet based library services for members of the ethno-cultural communities? How do these requirements relate to the presentation of the information (i.e., page layout and hyperlink structure) but also to services provided in other languages.

## **Content**

How can content for multicultural Internet based library services be identified, evaluated and organized in light of challenges presented by geographic distribution, required linguistic expertise, and uneven advancement of the internet in countries around the world?

## **Speakers**

Featured speakers will include:

Jorge Schement, noted researcher in issues related to demographics and multiculturalism, and co-director of the Institute for Information Technology at Pennsylvania State University.

Gary Strong, recognized leader in multi-cultural library activities and director of the Queens Borough Public Library in New York. Mr. Strong has first hand experience with the New Americans program and, under his leadership; Queens Borough Public Library developed WorldInQ, an innovative multilingual Web-based information system.

Speakers from many geographic areas will:

- Report on research results regarding the digital divide in the U.S. and the impact of technology on various age groups and ethnicities
- Scan and review current developments on the international scene
- Provide present and future plans for North American multicultural programs
- Review and prioritize with participants the relevant trends and possibilities for services utilizing technology

## **Outcomes**

As outcomes, participants will:

- Identify issues and effective strategies for using technology to serve multicultural populations
- Learn how libraries have begun to develop initiatives to respond to the challenges of technology and globalization in a multicultural setting
- Assess the direction of technology for programmatic potential
- Discuss, review and prioritize trends and services
- Identify the challenges and recommendations for providing multicultural services

## **Conference Location**

Hosted in Buffalo, New York, the conference itself is being held exactly one hundred years after the Pan-American Exposition that the city of Buffalo hosted in 1901.

The IFLA Satellite Meeting encourages attendance from participants throughout the world interested in information and library issues and celebrates the fact that at the Pan-American Exposition of 1901, the latest technology, electricity, was prominently displayed and discussed. Since 1901, technology, including electricity, has become commonplace and accepted. Every day sees new products and services utilizing technology associated with the digital environment and the Internet.

The IFLA Satellite Meeting celebrates the advancements made with technology in the library community and reviews the services it provides to users as technology diversifies, grows, and prevails.

For more information, contact:

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A Web site will provide more information on the program, speakers, online registration and hotel information. Conference attendees may participate in an optional post-satellite meeting tour of the Niagara Falls prior to departure for the IFLA Conference in Boston. In the meantime, please contact Barbara von Wahide, for further information.

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