



library services to  
**newsletter**  
*multicultural populations*

Number 1

July 2006

## Editor's Update

Jane Pyper



Welcome to the Summer 2006 issue of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations Newsletter.

This edition has interesting information, some of the high-lights are:

- an outline of our section's programme at the upcoming World Library and Information Congress Conference in Seoul, Korea, August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- plans for the hosting of the 2007 Satellite Conference near Pretoria, South Africa
- a campaign launched in Denmark aimed at encouraging youth from ethnic minorities to study librarianship.

If you missed the mid-winter meeting in Spain, please see Mijin Kim's article on page 4.

Don't forget to visit our Section's website at:  
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s32/index.htm> ❖

## Chair's Column

Kirsten Leith Nielsen



We congratulate you Lorie Roy and wish your happiness and success in your period as President! We know that you will give priority to multicultural issues and issues regarding global cultural diversity.

A great event happened this spring in one of the world's largest library associations. Lorie Roy was elected President of the American Library Association (ALA) for the period 2007-2008. As representative of Native Americans the ALA by this election will have an indigenous President for the first time in its history.

This is a victory, not only for the American library community, but also for the multicultural society worldwide and for indigenous peoples and cultural minorities all over the world.

And this is indeed required! Focusing on multicultural library services and giving priority to services bridging the gap between various cultural and religious groups is an important and essential task today.

The issue this winter, on the cartoon-drawings of Mohammed in two small newspaper in two small Scandinavian countries, shows how "small" the world has become, how fast news travels and the ignorance, the prejudice and the intolerance of a great number of members of the global society.

Libraries, as cultural centres and as learning centres have a responsibility and obligation to work for a society where accessibility to information on and interaction between peoples is given high priority! ❖



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The Newsletter is the official publication of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations.

The Newsletter is made available to all Section members as a benefit of membership.

Articles for publication and/or requests for information should be sent to Jane Pyper at [jpyper@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:jpyper@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

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**WORLD LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION  
CONGRESS: 72ND IFLA  
GENERAL CONFERENCE  
AND COUNCIL**

**"Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the  
Knowledge and Information Society"**

**20-24 August 2006, Seoul, Korea**

Join our section on:

**WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST 2006**

**134 SI - Library Services to  
Multicultural Populations**

*Successful partnership in multicultural library  
services: Asian Communities*

- ["Moe Thauk Kye", the First Burmese  
Library in Japan](#)  
SOE WIN SHEIN (Moe Thauk Kye Library,  
Tokyo, Japan)
- [Oizumi Public Library: bridging cultures in  
partnership with community resources](#)  
MASANOBU ITOI (Oizumi Public Library,  
Oizumi-machi, Japan)
- [Community, scholars, librarians: the  
Multicultural Canada Digitization Project](#)  
LYNN COPELAND (Simon Fraser  
University, Burnaby (BC), Canada)
- [Library Services in Minority Communities  
in China](#)  
ZHANG GUIRONG, ALATANCANG and  
DELGER (University of Inner Mongolia,  
China)

For the full programme see:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>



**INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
MULTILINGUAL REFERENCE SERVICE  
IN SWEDEN**

By: Leena Månsson  
Library adviser County library of Skane  
[www.skane.se/lansbibliotek](http://www.skane.se/lansbibliotek)

Information about the Multilingual reference  
service Ask the Library:

[http://www.eref.se/se-  
admin/vrl\\_entry.asp?virtual\\_desk\\_id=48](http://www.eref.se/se-admin/vrl_entry.asp?virtual_desk_id=48)

**Ask the Library**

- Why is the grass green?
- When was John Lennon born?
- Where do I find information about Michael Schumacher?
- What is the colour of the flower on the peanut plant?

"Ask the library" is a reference service on the Internet where you can get an answer to just about anything between heaven and earth. Librarians from various libraries in Sweden are available to answer your questions, and it is free.

Our service is available in many languages, such as:

- |            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| • English  | Ask the Library          |
| • Spanish  | Pregunte a la biblioteca |
| • Polish   | Zapytaj bibliotekarza    |
| • Finnish  | Kysy kirjastosta         |
| • Serbian  | Pitajte bibliotekare     |
| • Croatian | Pitajte knjižničare      |
| • Bosnian  | Pitajte bibliotekare     |
| • Russian  | Спросите Библиотеку      |
| • French   | Demandez la bibliotheque |
| • German   | Frage die bibliothek     |
| • Persian  |                          |
| • Arabic   |                          |

If you want to know more about the service  
please feel free to contact me!



## WANTED – MORE LIBRARIANS FROM ETHNIC MINORITIES

Libraries encourage integration

**By:** Susy Tastesen and Vibeke Stage,  
Copenhagen Public Libraries

In May 2006, the libraries in Denmark launched a campaign aimed at encouraging young people from ethnic minorities to study librarianship.

The primary goal of the initiative is to improve the library services to the growing number of library users from ethnic minorities in Denmark. Many libraries have previously initiated projects supporting integration, but now they also deem it necessary to increase employment of multi-cultural staff.

Libraries wish to draw students' attention to an education which will ensure young Danes from ethnic minorities a broad theoretical foundation in library science as well as a variety of highly attractive employment opportunities. Today's librarians need to excel in both information science and in multi-cultural skills.

In weeks 18 through 20 2006 the campaign will be launched at libraries that have many users from ethnic minorities and simultaneously almost all libraries in Denmark will display posters and flyers supporting the initiative. Libraries also have the option of installing a banner ad on their home page.

"Bibliotekspressen", the journal of Danish Union of Librarians, will publish an article on the campaign in week 18.

The campaign is a result of cooperation between Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, The Royal School of Library and Information Science, The Danish Union of Librarians and their Section of Cross-cultural Librarianship (BITA). ❖



*Sample posters from the Campaign launched in Denmark in May*

## PLANNING OF THE 2007 SATELLITE CONFERENCE IS WELL UNDERWAY

**By:** Adriaan Swanepoel, Chair,  
Organizing Committee Pretoria, South Africa

Plans for hosting the Section's satellite conference in 2007, ahead of the WLIC/IFLA annual conference, is well underway. While the main IFLA conference will be hosted in Durban, South Africa, the MCULTP satellite conference will be held on 15 – 17 August 2007 in Centurion, approximately 20 km from the city centre of Pretoria, the capital of South Africa. True to the character and goals of the MCULTP, the local organizing committee is comprised of a multicultural grouping of volunteers from public, national, special and university libraries.

Although the official announcement and invitation to participate will only be made later, the local satellite conference organizing committee would like to shed some light on progress being made, and also to request MCULTP members to diarize the event. The theme and title of the conference will be "Innovative multicultural library services for all". Each of the three days will be devoted to a separate sub-theme, namely: Innovative multicultural library services, Innovation and developments in literacy and learning and linguistic diversity. The conference will therefore appeal to librarians, educators, publishers, booksellers and community workers involved in literacy, learning, languages and linguistics.

Apart from wanting to host a conference of high standing, the organizing committee also plans a true South African multicultural experience for all.

More details will soon appear on this Section's website. ❖



## Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations in Spain:

**By:** Mijin Kim, Section Member,  
Manager, Library and Archives Canada

In March, the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations held their annual midwinter meeting in Gerona, Spain. Gerona is a lovely historic town, just over an hour north of Barcelona. Gerona boasts a population of about 85,000 and dates back to Roman times. Being a Catalunyan speaking region in a dominantly Spanish speaking country, Gerona provided an ideal backdrop for many of the multicultural and multilingual issues the Committee is currently discussing.

While meeting during IFLA 2005 in Oslo, Norway, the Committee decided to make an effort to hold its midwinter meetings in unique locations so that the efforts of the Committee could expand beyond the four walls of a meeting room. The Committee's goals were twofold. Firstly, the Committee wanted to develop relationships with diverse libraries, information and learning centres to further their work and to provide expertise and advice where possible. Secondly, the Committee wanted to draw more attention to their important work in regions that may not currently be active in IFLA or may not be aware of the Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations.

ACEFIR, the Catalan Association for Education, Training and Research hosted the Committee in Gerona. Our meetings were held in the Fontana D'Or, a spectacular Romanesque building which now houses the Cultural Centre. The surroundings no doubt helped inspire the Committee as it spent many long hours sequestered in the building. Our hosts were gracious and provided the Committee with informative presentations on their organization as well as information about the historic town.

The Committee's goal to raise awareness for its work and the work of related local organizations was also realized when the Mayor of Gerona sent a representative to welcome us and the Committee made the local press twice.

The work of the Committee is endless and can be all consuming so midwinter meetings are an opportunity for all the members to have really full discussions and debates on issues and get down to the actual drafting (and often redrafting...) of policies, plans and reports.

The issues forwarded at this midwinter meeting include Conference Programs and Satellite Meetings for the next three years, Guidelines for Multicultural Libraries, a Manifesto on Multicultural Libraries as well as the

administrative work that all IFLA Committees need to perform. A full description of the work accomplished can be found in the minutes of the meeting posted on the Section's website.

While visiting locations for midwinter meeting, the Committee always tries to include site visits to libraries and information centres in the region that are offering unique multicultural services. The day after the conclusion of the business meetings, the Committee set off to Olot a town about 45 minutes from Gerona. There, the Committee visited the library which offers multilingual services. The library visit started with an official greeting by the Mayor who was accompanied by members of the local press. The latter part of the day, the Committee went to Torroella de Montgri to visit Can Quintana, a very unique cultural centre.

All in all, the Committee achieved a great deal during this midwinter meeting. Many issues were resolved, policies were furthered, programs developed and plans were developed for our next goals. Just as importantly, networks were established within the region of Gerona which will hopefully benefit the local communities, the Section and IFLA.

A big thank you to our hosts, Rosa, Monica and Jordina at ACEFIR and everyone who welcomed us and provided such warm Catalunyan hospitality. The Committee looks forward to building on these relationships and establishing new ones at the next midwinter meeting. ❖



Walking in Girona



Meeting Place



End of Tour  
Under a blooming  
Mimosa