

IFLA

Library Services to Multicultural Populations



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WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chair

Greetings to all. The Section had another very productive conference this year starting off with a pre-conference satellite meeting in Lappeenranta, Finland. Two more programs were offered in the IFLA Conference Center in Helsinki which extended a warm welcome to all IFLA delegates.

As these programs are highlighted in this edition of the newsletter, acknowledging the work of the many standing committee members involved in the planning of these programs is most important. Many thanks to Ann Katrin Ursberg, Leena Aaltonen and Turku University of Applied Science library school student, Anni J. Rajala for organizing such a well-planned and gratifying satellite meeting in Lappeenranta. Librarians from Norway, Russia, Finland, Canada, the United States and New Zealand came together and shared their stories and experiences in cross border library cooperation. Before heading back to Helsinki, many of us enjoyed a boating excursion through the Lake Saimaa canal arriving in Vyborg, Russia. There we visited the Aalto Library which, even though it is under construction, will soon be a vital source of library and information resources for the Vyborg community.

Linguistic and cultural diversity are the mainstay of multicultural library service, so our programs in Helsinki exhibited the importance of the mother tongue when providing equitable library services. Thanks go to Lorie Roy, Convener of the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Indigenous Matters for a well-attended program addressing the integration of an indigenous world view within library services in Canada and New Zealand.

Librarians delivered papers at our section's meeting highlighting the library context for languages and culture. It was more than fitting then to offer simultaneous interpretation at this year's program. Thanks are extended to standing committee members Olga Cuadrado, Susana Alegre Landaburu and Leena Aaltonen for this insightful inclusion to our conference program.

Next the section is off to Zurich, Switzerland in March 2013 for our mid-year meeting. Standing committee member Ruth Fassbind has made arrangements for our meeting location plus two days visiting libraries in and around Zurich. Work on the IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto Toolkit continues with a launch date set for Singapore. New translations of the section's key publications *Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Service*, 3rd Edition and the IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/en/mcult>.

This is an election year for IFLA. Some of our dearest members will be completing their terms and many members need to be re-nominated for their second term. The section welcomes colleagues who are eager to work with an active group of standing committee members devoted to multicultural library services. The call for 2013 nominations has been announced at <http://www.ifla.org/news/call-for-nominations-for-section-standing-committees-august-2013-august-2017>.

Plans are already underway for our program in Singapore. We will be offering a joint program with the Section on Education and Training entitled *Indigenous Knowledge and Multiculturalism in LIS Education and Library Training: Infinite Possibilities*. This joint session focuses on the issues of diverse communities and the ways that LIS education and library training need to incorporate cultural competencies, knowledge and practices. It should be an exciting collaboration with a great line up of speakers.

My thanks go out to all standing committee members for their continued interest in promoting and sustaining multicultural library services. We learn from each other and return from our mid-year and annual meeting refreshed and renewed and ready for new challenges. Our work as professionals dedicated to supporting inclusion and participation of persons and groups from all diverse cultural backgrounds does make a difference. As we are coming to end of 2012, may we all give thanks for many things that we have and keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who are less fortunate.

Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All,

Tess Tobin
Chair



Intercultural Networking in Switzerland

By Ruth Fassbind and translated by Claudia Kovalik

Public libraries in Switzerland are increasingly embedded in networks that advocate the integration of foreign-language children and their parents.

With the launch of the project Bookstart Switzerland, a consistent and nationwide network has been built to provide each baby born in Switzerland with a Bookstart packet. The box contains two cardboard picture books and multilingual booklets for parents with information about the importance of early childhood language promotion. The short text in the flyer is aimed at parents who struggle with the national language or who have reading difficulties.

Since 2008 libraries, parent counsellors, general practitioners and paediatricians have been working together within the framework of Bookstart Switzerland to ensure that parents speaking a foreign language get informed about the significance of an early language promotion of their child in their own native language.

The bodies responsible for the project, Bibliomedia Switzerland and the Swiss Institute for Children's and Adolescent's Media (SIKJM), have published

multilingual material and documents on the Bookstart website (www.buchstart.ch > Materialien > Informationen für Eltern in vielen Sprachen). Parents, libraries and other institutions interested in the language promotion of children can find and download nursery rhymes in many languages from the website.



The Bookstart Switzerland program began in 2008. Image from www.buchstart.ch.

The project Schenk mir eine Geschichte – Family Literacy (www.sikjm.ch/d/?/d/)

(Continued on page 2)

(Intercultural Networking ...continued from page 1)

[lesefoerderung/projekte/family_literacy.htmls](#)) implemented by SIKJM is directly attached to Bookstart Switzerland. Its aim is to encourage parents with a migration background to tell stories and read picture books to their children from an early age on. The parents are prompted to do this in their native language. The more sophisticatedly a child can express itself in its first, native language, the easier it acquires a second one – in Switzerland these would be German, French, Italian, or Rhaeto-Romanic.

These Family Literacy courses are conducted by cultural mediators and instructors with a migration background who teach in their own native language. The teachers have been specially trained by SIKJM staff. The Family Literacy courses take place in libraries, neighbourhood centres, or nursery schools and the 2-5 years old participants are accompanied by adults. Thus, parents and children can immerse into different language worlds – their own native language as well as the second language.

Libraries with foreign-language media collections and that hold events in foreign languages are welcoming places for migrants in an unfamiliar world. Librarians in Swiss community and municipal libraries, however, have for a long time been badly prepared for the development of such services. Therefore, Bibliomedia Switzerland and the association Interbiblio in cooperation with Baobab Books developed the project Mondomedia – Open Libraries with the aim to offer training courses in the area of intercultural library work and intercultural library services.

During the Mondomedia courses the librarians reflect on their own experiences or situations when they have felt alien or like a stranger and they become acquainted with cogent reasons for intercultural library work as outlined in the IFLA documents “Raison d’être” for Multicultural Library Services and Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services.

The course participants learn how to invoke the IFLA documents to strengthen their arguments if their library is in need of additional financial support from its community to fund its intercultural activities, (*IFLA UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto*). The libraries implementing intercultural services can thus demonstrate that they act within guidelines that are accepted worldwide.

The course participants also learn that they can borrow books in foreign languages from Bibliomedia and from Interbiblio libraries. Even small libraries are thus enabled to offer books in foreign languages and to keep their stocks up to date by exchanging them regularly. During the course, the participants gather ideas for their intercultural events aimed at children and adults, and the course instructors provide them with

additional information about successfully implemented and best practise projects (important: there is always one Swiss instructor and one instructor with a migration background conducting the course).

The Mondomedia training courses are attended by librarians with a special interest in intercultural library work. It is important, however, that all employees of community and municipal libraries acquire basic knowledge about intercultural library work within the scope of their education or training. Over the last two years, Bibliomedia has been able to persuade almost all providers of such training to include Mondomedia courses in their basic education programme. In this way, it is guaranteed that a basic knowledge about the importance of an opening of libraries for a multilingual clientele will start to spread among the Swiss public libraries.

And all these efforts are successful: More and more public libraries are starting to offer books in the most frequently spoken foreign languages. Many of them cooperate with schools and also make sure that children with a migration background have the possibility to read books in their own native language. Today one third of all Swiss public libraries are lending books in foreign languages borrowed from Bibliomedia.

A child’s first visit to a public library with his or her class can determine whether they will become an enthusiastic customer - or not. In order to make library visits interesting for kindergarten and lower grade students, the German Library Association in cooperation with Bibliomedia Switzerland and the Austrian Library Association have developed an intercultural poster.



Downloadable intercultural poster from the Bibliomedia website for young students. Image: www.bibliomedia.ch

Libraries in all three countries can order the poster at the aforementioned institutions. The poster that shows a children’s library with a multicultural clientele there is a plethora of details to be discovered and named. To support the use of many different languages when

the poster is presented, Bibliomedia has developed a small, customised glossary that was (and is still being) translated by many volunteers. On the Bibliomedia website (www.bibliomedia.ch > Angebote für Bibliotheken > Interkulturelle Bibliotheksanimation), these wordlists in many different languages can be downloaded.

Additionally, libraries can find there, templates for the production of bilingual word cards. (front side: foreign language / reverse side: German). Librarians thereby have a tool at hand where they can easily organise language comparison and guessing games. The aim of the poster and the activities associated with it is to provide a “piece of home” in the library to as many children as possible – no matter which language they speak or which cultural

The 98th All-Japan Annual Library Conference

By Yasuko Hirata
Professor, Jiyugaoka Sanno College
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo

The 98th All-Japan Annual Library Conference of 2012 was held in Mastue-city, Shimane Prefecture between Oct. 25th and 26th. The conference theme this year was “Libraries passing down culture and creating the future”.

Shimane is about 600 km southwest from Tokyo and takes about 75 minutes by airplane. Shimane is well known as the home of over 1/3 of the Japanese mythology that appeared in the Kojiki, a Japanese ancient history book edited in 712. As 2012 is the 1300th anniversary year of the Kojiki, this conference was one of the celebrations in Shimane.

A general assembly was held on the first day. After the opening ceremony, professor Shiomi, chairperson of the Japan Library Association (JLA) Board, reported on current trends in Japan’s library field. JLA Mail Magazine reported a total of over 1200 participants at this conference.

On the second day, 12 sessions were held in different places. One of them was a joint session organized by the JLA committee on multicultural library services and the JLA committee on services for the handicapped.



Presentation with sign language interpreter. Photo credit: Y. Hirata.

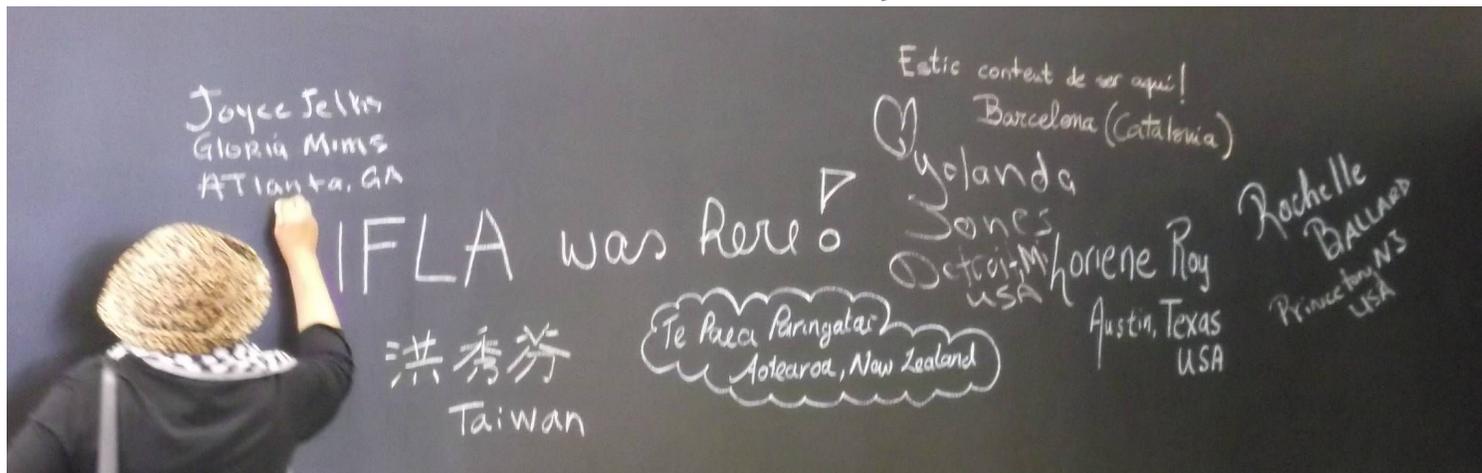
I participated in the day-long session with five other speakers.

The session was divided two parts, one was library services to multicultural populations and the other was library services to persons with print disabilities. As for the multicultural library services, Mr. Muraoka, the chair of JLA committee, summarized the current status of our activities on multicultural library services in Japan. I gave a presentation on the Guidelines; the differences from the second edition and what we learning from the new ones. The Japanese version of the Guidelines was published in March, 2012 by JLA. It has been ten years since the second edition of the Guideline in Japanese.

The attendance of over sixty people, asked many questions and we had a brisk exchange. Finally, 2012 is the 120th anniversary year of JLA.

Ko te pae tawhiti whaia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina

Seek out the distant horizons, cherish those you attain



From IFLA 78 in Helsinki. Photo credit: T.P. Paringatai

By Te Paea Paringatai
Advisor, Workforce Development and Culture
Kapiti Coast District Council

The ability to understand how indigenous peoples arrange and share information and how to relate intuitively across cultures is essential in the 21st century. Whether you are a national library, an academic library, school library or public library looking to hire library practitioners, store indigenous content, catalogue using customised subject headings, or improve access the challenge is the same – cultural diversity is increasing and the demand for quality domestic services are accelerating. In equipping ourselves with the skills to relate and communicate with indigenous peoples, we set ourselves free to realise largely untapped productivity domestically, as well as maximise the potential of overseas opportunities.

One of the sessions I attended at IFLA 78 in Helsinki was the SIG on Indigenous Matters programme: *Empowering Library Services for Indigenous People* held Tuesday 14 August 2012. This session included talks from Canada, USA and Aotearoa New Zealand. Being of Māori descent and the current Tumuaki

(President) of Te Rōpū Whakahau, National Association for Māori in Information, the presentation from Bill MacNaught, National Librarian of Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa (National Library of New Zealand) was of particular interest.

This presentation shared information about Library Services to Māori. A couple of key points that stood out for me were:

- That National Library has a genuine intent to be a bicultural organisation;
- That National Library has entered into formal arrangements called Letters of Commitment with Māori groups.

These prompted questions and there was opportunity to seek clarification at the end of the presentation.

My questions were:

> National Library is to be commended for striving for this goal. In

becoming a bicultural organisation, does this also mean bilingual?
> Letters of commitment are a significant step in strengthening relationships with Māori groups. Were these the result of consultation and genuine discourse or the result of Treaty Settlement and changes in legislation?

There was another interesting question from the floor and this was around the pressure to provide multicultural services. I think it is worthy to note that from a National Library perspective, the relationship with Māori (indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand) is a priority. This does not take away from other ethnicities but inside Aotearoa New Zealand, the bicultural relationship with Māori is distinct. So what does a bilingual bicultural organisation look and feel like in Aotearoa New Zealand? Can I be so bold as to suggest it is one where every member of staff is able to respond in Māori and English, where people are capable and confident to switch smoothly between a Māori world view and a Western world view as the situation requires. This model improves on current practice where organisations refer clients to an individual or small group that has bicultural competency.

In terms of Letters of Commitment, there are few in existence and acting on these were the result of Treaty Settlements and changes in legislation which suggests a lot has been achieved but there is still more that can be done in Aotearoa New Zealand. I'd like to emphasize the importance of an indigenous presence at IFLA, the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations and the SIG on Indigenous Matters. I believe our indigenous voice adds value and authenticity to partnerships, initiatives and library services domestically and internationally.

The cultural diversity that occurs at IFLA is rewarding on so many levels. I was inspired by the many people I met and how they deliver the work they do. I was surprised by the innovation and creativity around the world and I was empowered through active participation at the satellite meeting in Lappeenranta, standing committee meetings and the Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters programme and business meeting.

I would like to acknowledge Te Rōpū Whakahau (www.trw.org.nz) and Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa for enabling me to attend. Special thanks and appreciation goes to Dr. Loriene Roy for her tremendous support leading up to, during and post congress.

It was an amazing time and I hope you will consider attending the next congress and sharing your story.

Kāti ake rā,

Te Paea Paringatai
Tumuaki
Te Rōpū Whakahau
www.trw.org.nz



IFLA Satellite Conference Highlights

By Stephen Stratton
Librarian, Head of Collections Management and Technical Services
Broome Library, CSU Channel Islands

We hosted a pre-conference satellite meeting this year prior to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress meetings. Our satellite meeting was entitled *Transcending Boundaries to Increase Cultural Understanding Between Countries*, and we met in Lappeenranta, Finland.

Lappeenranta is set on the shores of Finland's largest lake, Saimaa. It lies about 30 kilometers from the Russian border in southeast Finland and was an easy 2 hour train ride from Helsinki. Having grown up in the northern part of the USA, in the state of Michigan, Finland was quite familiar looking to me. Tall white birch trees, pines, and the rocky landscape in places reminded me northern Michigan and it made sense that many Finns who immigrated to the USA moved to Michigan probably for the reason that it reminded them of home.

The first day of our meeting we began with tours of two libraries and a welcome reception. We first traveled to the Lappeenranta Academic Library, which is the combined library for both Saimaa University of Applied Sciences and Lappeenranta University of Technology. It is unusual in that the library is shared between the two universities, and we learned how the different subjects and functions are served for the two different student populations. The library is also open to the public.

Then we travelled outside of Lappeenranta to the municipality of Taipalsaari, where we visited the public library. Taipalsaari is a municipality



Old Town Hall. Photo credit: Wikipedia

built on and around nearly 700 islands in Lake Saimaa. It was quite a unique public library with a grand piano for public use and many windows to let in the light from outside. The welcome reception was held downtown in the Old Town Hall. The clapboard building was constructed in the 1820s. The style of structure was similar in many of the older buildings in Lappeenranta, from churches downtown to the buildings in the historic fortress

area. The mayor of Lappeenranta as well as other local dignitaries greeted us and provided food and champagne to welcome us to town.

The following day we met in the more modern City Hall in the City Council chambers under the watchful eye of the wild man, who appears on the town flag and coat of arms. The Swedish name for Lappeenranta is Villmanstrand, which translates roughly as wild man's shore. There was a collection of presentations representing work from a variety of libraries in several different countries. There were presentations on prison libraries in the country of Georgia, cooperation across boundaries in Arctic libraries, and librarians travelling to many countries learning about culture, religion, and traditions.



Welcome to Lappeenranta from the Mayor. Photo credit: S. Stratton

The full text of the presentations can be found on the website for the satellite meeting at <http://iflasatellitelappeenranta2012.wordpress.com/speakers/>

When the speakers finished for the day many of us gathered for dinner on the lakefront in the restaurant Kasino. Drinks and conversation about the presentations continued until late, when the sun was finally setting. For many people the following day was another adventure as a tour to Vyborg, Russia was included in the satellite meeting. Although temperatures were cool, and it was a rainy day, the sights along the canal were interesting as the boat went through eight locks on the way from Lappeenranta to Vyborg.

It was a long day and the canal trip took longer than expected. There was not as much time to see the town and library in Vyborg as had been hoped. Altogether the trip to Russia and back through the canal took 15 hours and with the delays left little of that time for sightseeing in Vyborg. I feel the satellite meeting was a success. Attendees came from public, academic, and special libraries from a number of countries and we were able to learn first hand about boundaries in a small city in Finland with a rich history of multicultural interaction.

IFLA Satellite Meeting in Lappeenranta, Finland August 8 - 9, 2012

By Anni Rajala, Student, Turku University of Applied Sciences
Turku, Salo, Finland

The summer and this year's IFLA conference are already long behind us as I write this. For me it was a very special summer. It was my first time to have a connection to IFLA and it surely was the first time I was organizing an event such as the Multicultural Section's preconference in Lappeenranta.

Two years ago, when I started my library studies at Turku University of Applied Sciences, I had hardly heard the name IFLA. Now, all of a sudden, I was organizing this satellite meeting with my teacher and learning tons of new things. What an opportunity – I would not have missed it for the world!

The theme of the satellite meeting in Lappeenranta was *Transcending Boundaries to*

Increase Cultural Understanding between Countries. We had one keynote speaker, Helena Ruotsala, from the University of Turku, Finland, and about ten additional speakers from the Nordic countries, Russia and North America. We got to hear about many topics including: cross border cooperation going on in the northern parts of Nordic countries, medical library services in Ethiopia, a prison library project in Georgia, the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, diversity in the library profession, professional cross cultural exchange and the libraries' place at an event called "Global Summit on Love and Forgiveness."

The main impression left from these presentations – for me at least – was quite an optimistic view. It seemed as if there were a lot of people willing to cooperate and help one another. Hearing and learning about these different projects was really interesting and also

gave me something to think about.

In addition to the actual conference, participants had a chance to visit local libraries and take part in a cruise to Vyborg, where we visited the famous Aalto Library. The local library tours were a good way to start our three days in Lappeenranta. It was particularly nice that the city of Lappeenranta was generous enough to offer attendees an opening ceremony at the beautiful old town hall with some of the local council members attending as well.

Everyone really appreciated the gesture and it was a fine way to welcome the conference guests to the city. I must say that the cooperation with the city of Lappeenranta could not have been better and this definitely had a great impact on how the conference turned out .

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Lessons Learned from a Global Gathering: The Pilgrimage of Love & Forgiveness

By *Loriene Roy, Ph.D., Professor, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin and Convener, IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters*

Over five days, from 19 -24 September 2012, five hundred people from around the world gathered in Assisi, Italy to contemplate the power of love and forgiveness to transform lives. The event was organized and supported by a private foundation, the Fetzer Institute, located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA. Some 200 of the attendees were representatives of Fetzer Advisory Councils (FACs) representing sixteen disciplinary areas from Design Professions to World Religions and Spiritualities.

Other attendees were personal or special guests of the FACs whose work over the past year and a half has focused on identifying exemplars of love and forgiveness. Many of the guests represented these exemplars and shared their experiences pertaining to love and forgiveness.

These experiences included a teen poetry festival in Chicago, a filmmaker's documentary on crossing the Mexican border into Arizona, narratives from hospice care nurses, and work with inmates in rediscovering the meaning of forgiveness. The Arts FAC created public art exhibits which included the installation of a new marble statue of a young pregnant woman, created by Greek sculptor, Dimitris Alithinos, and, in other areas of the city, arrangements of crystals and stones, organized by Brazilian artist Denise Milan.

The three days of programming included special addresses, center stage presentations by representatives from each of the sixteen FACs, afternoon breakout sessions organized by each

FAC, and a continuous display/poster area called the marketplace of ideas. Brother David Steindl-Rast (<http://www.gratefulness.org>) delivered the opening address speaking on how love brings people to belonging, and that whatever we take to our hearts, breaks our hearts open, an openness that leads to forgiving. Small group gatherings were encouraged and also scheduled during a one-hour world café.

Optional contemplative activities were built into the schedule: yoga, a labyrinth walk, a 'mindful' walk through a nearby olive grove, reflections on the life of St. Francis, Buddhist meditation, aikido, and sufi meditation. Social events included receptions and a dinner with performances of medieval song, drumming, and flag-throwing.

The week was capped by a live concert staged in front of the Basilica of St. Francis that was taped for Italian television. The concert featured, among others, Andrea Bocelli and Dionne

Warwick as well as interviews with several special guests from the Global Gathering.

The Information and Communications Professions FAC issued a call: "on all professionals in media, library and information science, and telecommunications to join us in fostering awareness of the power of love and forgiveness through our work."

During their center stage presentation, they featured the work of advisor Asi Burak, Co-President of Games for Change. Mr. Burak organized a live demonstration of his video game, Peacemaker (<http://www.gamesforchange.org/play/peacemaker/>), designed to simulate negotiation of peace between Israelis and Palestinians.



Asi Burak from Games for Change. Photo credit: www.gamesforchange.org

During their breakout session, the Information and Communications Professions FAC hosted a panel of media specialists including Krista Tippett (Host of the radio program, "On Being," on American Public Media, <http://www.onbeing.org/>), documentary filmmaker Marco Williams, and Siok Sian Pek-Dorji, Director of the Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy. The breakout session provided an opportunity for journalist Edward Girardet to give an update on his plans for a field guide on Afghanistan. As well, my guest, Elizabeth Hallmark (Creative Director, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts) and I introduced the work contributed by two graduates of the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin.



Radio broadcaster Krista Tippett. Photo credit: www.onbeing.org

Ms. Lauren Linn created a "Fetzer's Index" of facts illustrating the pervasiveness of love and forgiveness in the information and communications fields—such as "The approximate number of programs held in 2012 to explore issues of community, compassion, and civility as part of an American Library Association project: 160."

Mr. Greg Argo prepared two LibGuides—one for the Business Professions FAC and another for the Sport and Embodied Spiritual Practice FAC. The Information and Communications Professions FAC also sponsored the travel of Roy Boney, Jr., Cherokee artist and language specialist with a background in creating Claymation videos and illustrating graphic novels. Boney created a daily sketch of the event.

The Global Gathering was an exquisite, once-in-a-lifetime event that allowed attendees to witness exemplary work that is being conducted in all disciplines across the globe. The real impact of the event will be revealed by how this work is sustained, how efforts are shared, and how new expressions of love and forgiveness emerge and flourish.

Libraries are logical institutions that can contribute to the global message by hosting similar local events, assisting individuals in their personal journeys toward love and forgiveness, and creating discovery places to create and foster new expressions.

UPCOMING EVENT

The 8th International Indigenous Librarians Forum, USA, 2013

The next International Indigenous Librarians Forum will take place May 2013 on the campus of Northwest Indian College on the Lummi Reservation in Washington state, fifty miles south of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. As planning evolves, details will be shared on the American Indian Library Association (AILA) website at <http://www.nwic.edu/>.

(IFLA Satellite Meeting ... continued from page 4)

Organizing the satellite meeting was a lot of work, as you can imagine, but it was rewarding to see how everything came together in the end, without any major problems. I had to teach myself many things, such as creating a web page for the meeting, and making all kinds of arrangements for which I had no previous experience. I definitely learned the amount of work it requires to organize such an event and what it entails dealing with different people and all the deadlines.

From a student point of view, all of this was a very good learning experience and I am extremely glad that my school offered me such an opportunity. I feel that this kind of practical learning really enhances the classroom education. Of course the satellite meeting in Lappeenranta was not purely an educational experience for me. One of the best things about it was meeting so many interesting and wonderful people from different countries. It was great to get international points of view in the field of library work. You never know if some of the connections made in these kinds of meetings might be useful one day! I really hope to be able to participate in an IFLA conference again in the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the speakers, participants and organizers for taking part in the satellite meeting. If anyone is interested in the presentations or full texts, most of them are visible on the satellite meeting's web page (<http://iflasatellitelappeenranta2012.wordpress.com>) I wish you all a lovely autumn!

Report of the IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters

'Awareness of Indigenous Knowledge Paradigms' now included in the IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library/Information Educational Programs

By *Loriene Roy, Ph.D., Professor, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin and Convener, IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters*

The International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Special Interest Group (SIG) organized a successful program attended by over 100 IFLA delegates as well as a well-attended business meeting at the 2012 World Library and Information Congress in Helsinki, Finland. In addition, the SIG's presence and efforts were felt in other ways.

The IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters was established with the strong support and interest of a number of past IFLA Presidents, notably Dr. Kay Raseroka and Dr. Alex Byrne. The SIG establishment was also a desire of library professionals in Aotearoa/ New Zealand who saw it as a means to replicate and advance some of their national efforts.

These national efforts included the formulation and support of a professional association of indigenous librarians (Te Ropu

Whakahau, Maori in libraries and information management) and incorporation of indigenous issues in its national association, LIANZA (Library and Information Association New Zealand Aotearoa).

In New Zealand, librarians may pursue a voluntary registration plan that includes demonstration of competency in eleven bodies of knowledge (BoK), the eleventh of which is "awareness of indigenous knowledge paradigms." IFLA and IFLA SIG members from Aotearoa/New Zealand felt that the establishment of an IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters might result in IFLA following the LIANZA model by affirming indigenous knowledge as an area within library and information science education globally.

Over the past year, IFLA's Education and Training Section has revised the "Guidelines for Professional Library/Information Educational Programs." With critical input from IFLA SIG member, Dr. Spencer Lilley, those guidelines now state that one of the eleven core elements of LIS curricula is now "Awareness of Indigenous Knowledge Paradigms."

The document includes this explanation from Dr. Lilley:

"The Scope (of this core element) includes understanding:

- the importance, diversity or structure of indigenous knowledge;
- the influence that indigenous processes, philosophies and language is intrinsic in indigenous knowledge frameworks;
- the importance of using indigenous research methodologies when investigating the information resources and services delivery needs of indigenous clients.

These characteristics will be further informed by values. It is important to note that although there are some commonalities between indigenous peoples, there is also a high degree of diversity as well. Therefore, each indigenous community will have its own

value and themes (expressed in their own language from their own cultural constructs). However common core values and themes across indigenous peoples include: heritage, guardianship, legitimacy, innovation,

respect and language."

It will be interesting to monitor how this change to the international guidelines for librarian education will be received not only within IFLA but also by other library and information science professional organizations, especially by those whose mission encompasses educational issues such as ALISE, the Association of Library and Information Science Education.

December 2012 will mark the fourth anniversary of the IFLA SIG. Those in attendance at the IFLA SIG business meeting in Helsinki in August 2012 supported a continuation of the SIG for another four years.

As the current convener, I will coordinate the submission of a review report to the IFLA Professional Committee with the support of the IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section.

The report will provide evidence that the IFLA SIG is active and addresses issues that support IFLA values and its strategic plan, are acknowledged by the host section, continue to be of interest to twenty-five or more IFLA members, and that the events it hosts are well-attended, promoted, and organized.

The report will also document that the SIG Convener has attended Section meetings at each IFLA World Library and Information Congress and that a new convener is willing to serve for a minimum of two years, from 2013-2015, with a possibility of an additional two-year appointment.

The next newsletter will outline plans for the 2013 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Singapore.

Section 161 Library Services to Multicultural Populations

By *Susana Alegre Landaburu
Head of International Cooperation
Ministry of Culture, Spain*

On Wednesday 15th August, our Section held its annual session at the IFLA Conference, this time under the theme Multicultural Libraries - Inspiring, Surprising and Empowering your Communities.

It was also a multilingual session with papers in English, French and Russian that were interpreted into all IFLA languages.

The speakers came from Finland, France and Switzerland:

- Gina Reymond, Member of the Committee of Interbiblio Suisse, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERBIBLIO: les bibliothèques interculturelles de Suisse et leurs activités
- Ekaterina Shklyar, from Sello Library, Espoo, Finland: Language café as a multicultural library service
- Eva Willenius, from Entresse Library, Espoo, Finland: The success of Entresse, a multicultural library in Espoo, Finland
- H el ene Deleuze and C ecile Denier, from the Biblioth eque publique d'information, Paris, France: 7 milliards d' tres humains, mille milliards de communaut es... et une biblioth eque pour chaque - la biblioth eque au service de toutes les communaut es

The papers can be found at: <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/session-161> and a large set of pictures from the session can be seen at our Section's Facebook site.

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SIG on Indigenous Matters is also on Facebook. Please visit <http://www.facebook.com/groups/66990630010/?fref=ts>



We also have a Twitter account. To follow our tweets, please visit www.twitter.com/ifla_mcultp

Some recent photos uploaded to our Facebook account:



Additional Resources:
IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto
<http://www.ifla.org/publications/iflaunesco-multicultural-library-manifesto>

Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services, 3rd Edition
<http://www.ifla.org/publications/multicultural-communities-guidelines-for-library-services-3rd-edition>

An Overview: Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services
Four page summary
<http://www.ifla.org/publications/an-overview-multicultural-communities-guidelines-for-library-services>