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# JOURNAL

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# EDITORIAL

## After Milan

**Stephen Parker**

As reported in the News section of this issue, the latest World Library and Information Congress, held in Milan from 23–27 August 2009, was another success, with nearly 4,000 registrants and several hundred other persons – volunteers, exhibitors and others – participating and well over 200 papers being presented. A representative selection of the conference papers, recommended by IFLA Sections and reviewed by the Editorial Committee, will appear in the first issue of IFLA Journal for 2010.

The first paper in the present issue was also presented at the Milan Congress, and won the inaugural IFLA Award for the best student Congress paper for its author, Agnese Perrone, a member of the digital library staff for Cilea, one of the three Italian academic library consortia. The award was established by the IFLA Section on Education and Training, and won this year by Agnese's paper 'Electronic Book Collection Development in Italy: a case study'. The paper reports the results of a research project that aimed to investigate how academic librarians in Italy are managing the integration of electronic book collections in their library holdings and focuses on the selection criteria and collection development issues in the context of the Italian digital publishing industry's approach to the publication and distribution of e-books.

The second paper – another case study – is also concerned with the academic environment, in this case, in Israel. In 'Internet Use in Israeli Universities: a case study', David Beno, a researcher and information manager in Israel, presents the results of a 2005–2006 survey conducted of the use of digital resources by students and researchers in five universities in Israel and the ratio of use between authorized electronic information resources provided by academic libraries, and the Surface Web. The study found that a high proportion of respondents reported a high frequency of use of the Surface Web in seeking information for their study or research, while much smaller proportions reported high use of academic e-journals, digital databases and e-books. The author points out that these findings are

worrying, since much of the information on the Surface Web is neither reliable nor authoritative. The reasons for such heavy dependence on the Surface Web are probably the ease and convenience of using Internet search engines.

We remain in the same region, but in a very different country, with the next paper, an account of 'Libraries in Palestine' by Françoise Lefebvre-Danset, an English translation of a paper originally published in *Bibliothèques: Revue de l'Association des Bibliothécaires de France* in July 2009. The paper reviews the present situation of libraries in the Palestinian territories and the contributions to library development made by foreign aid organizations and cooperative agreements with libraries and local authorities in France, and shows that, despite the many problems faced by Palestinian librarians, in the end, "Hopes and difficulties must, however, reinforce our commitment to partnership."

We have a complete change of focus, and country, with the next paper. In 'Green Gift Plan: building small libraries in public places of Mazandaran Province, Iran', Hossein Noorani a domestic culture expert in the Mazandaran Province Department of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, and Heidar Mokhtari, a PhD student who also works as a librarian in the Golestan Province University of Medical Science, Gorgan, report on the setting up and operation of the 'Green Gift Plan', which focused on establishing small libraries in public areas and work places such as barbers' shops, dentists' or doctors' offices and beauty salons in Mazandaran Province, Iran. The Plan is aimed at improving reading among the people by bringing books into society, and also put emphasis on the social responsibilities of librarians. The paper describes the settings, objectives and implementation of the Green Gift Plan and makes proposals for the continuation of the plan and the implementation of other similar plans.

The final paper in this issue brings another change of focus. In his paper, 'Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000–2007): A bibliometric study', Bhaskar Mukherjee, a Senior Lecturer in the Department

of Library and Information Science at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, presents the results of a bibliometric study of articles published in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)* from 2000 to 2007. The paper examines the distribution of papers under various headings, including authorship pattern and nature of collaboration, geographic distribution of articles, nature of cited and citing references, prolific authors and highly cited authors. The results indicate a trend towards collaboration in authorship, with authors from 47 countries contributing articles. The number of references cited per article increased from 2000 to 2007, whereas

articles received citations in decreasing numbers during the same period. The results suggest that articles need to have been published for more than 2 years before they receive adequate numbers of citations.

This issue also includes two key addresses from the Milan Congress; the Opening Address by the President of the Italian Library Association, Mauro Guerrini, and the Address to the General Assembly by the outgoing President of IFLA, Claudia Lux. We are pleased also to include a first President's Page from the new IFLA President, Ellen R. Tise, which includes her Acceptance Speech delivered at the Congress in Milan.

# The President's Page

**Ellen R. Tise, IFLA President 2009–2011**

Dear IFLA Members,

Warm greetings from South Africa! By now all of you are aware that the new IFLA Governing Board took office at the end of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2009 in Milan. I'm therefore writing to you in my role as IFLA President 2009–2011, following in the footsteps of past president Claudia Lux who initiated the President's Page in the IFLA journal as another tool to communicate with members. I have decided to continue with this. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to serve as IFLA President and I look forward to working with as many of you as possible over the next two years. The theme for my presidential term is 'Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge'. I would like to take this opportunity and thank everyone who has participated and given input into bringing the theme alive and all of you who have embraced it so enthusiastically. My major focus will center on the following six points:

1. advancing IFLA's advocacy role at the international level
2. increasing advocacy training opportunities for librarians
3. continuing to position libraries within the Information Society as drivers of access to information
4. strengthening IFLA's partnerships
5. creating new paradigms/partnerships within and related to our sector; and
6. leveraging the emerging global movement of A2K (Access to Knowledge) to the benefit of the profession.

Below is my acceptance speech delivered at the Milan Congress, which outlines the challenges faced by librarians and libraries all over the world and why it is so critical for libraries to be the key drivers of access to knowledge. I hope the speech will inspire all IFLA members and librarians to become advocates for libraries and library users all over the world so that we can ensure that libraries remain at the centre of communities and



*Ellen R. Tise, IFLA President 2009–2011*

that the world's citizenry have access to the world's knowledge.

Best wishes

*Ellen Remona Tise*

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## **Acceptance Speech Delivered at the 75th IFLA Congress in Milan 2009**

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Distinguished guests, past IFLA presidents, President-elect Ingrid Parent, members of the IFLA Governing Board, Presidents of Library Associations, Directors of the World's National Libraries, IFLA members and delegates:

It is with considerable humility that I stand here today to assume the position of President of IFLA, your President. The shoulders of those

who have gone before me serve as my support and my guide. I thank them all for their leadership, which has ensured that our beloved Federation has gone from strength-to-strength. The list of past presidents and officers is a veritable international who's who in our esteemed profession. They have faced a range of challenges – some have toiled in periods of great prosperity; others during times of economic hardship as we are facing today; some have enjoyed times of peace; whereas others have had to face hardships of various kinds. And yet through all of these moments in history IFLA has persevered. Through these all they have endured and through their efforts our association has remained focused and faithful to the ideals set by those who preceded them.

I would particularly like to recognize Professor Dr Claudia Lux, our immediate past President, who has ably piloted our association through the last two years with some unusual challenges. Despite all of these, under her leadership IFLA has weathered the vicissitudes of the times and emerged a stronger and more vibrant Federation. Claudia, IFLA owes you a great deal of gratitude and thanks you unreservedly for your stewardship.

For those who will serve on the Governing Board, committees and in other official capacities over the next two years, I look forward to working with you as we collectively strive to ensure that the Federation grows, develops and endures as a strong and vibrant association serving all the needs of the library community and also the individuals and societies we seek to serve. To our Secretary General, Jennefer Nicholson and the other staff of IFLA Headquarters, thank you for your continuing service and I look forward to continuing with you the good work that you have done and continue to do on behalf of our association. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Library Association of South Africa, other library associations, institutions, individuals and especially my home institution, Stellenbosch University, for their support.

I have chosen as my Presidential theme, 'Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge'. I see this as an all embracing concept that enables us to ensure that libraries remain at the heart of every thought, word and deed that occurs across within and throughout our societies and communities. Without knowledge all effort is nought. Without sound, accurate and reliable knowledge, decisions and actions that we or others take can have

disastrous consequential effects for a very long time. Knowledge is the key to success.

As knowledge and information professionals we are committed to the belief that we have an obligation to ensure that we provide those who use our services the knowledge and information that enables them to make the right decision, every time, all the time. Associated with this is the ethical responsibility that we must, on every occasion, provide equity in terms of access to information. Equity of access to information is one of IFLA's core values.

Access to information for all on equal terms is an unchallengeable human right. Equitable access for all pivots on the fundamental belief that all people are equal, all are free. An unalienable right of access to information and knowledge is the only way to ensure the development of all. Thus, there must be no short cuts, no settling for less in the provision of access to information.

I truly believe one of the most important ways of achieving this human right is for libraries and librarians to become fully engaged in their communities and societies. The activities and actions of the LIS sector are foundational to the existence of sustainable communities, economic growth and healthy societies. The results of our deeds, actions and services are vital to personal opportunities and wellbeing. LIS services add value to both individuals and society at large by providing citizens with access to knowledge and information. Not only must we advocate these both passionately and powerfully, we must also seek opportunities which enable us to put libraries and library services at the forefront of all community and societal efforts. By this level of engagement we will be helping to make libraries drive access to knowledge. The role of the LIS sector in promoting democratic values and democratizing the search for knowledge cannot be underestimated. Our role as information activists can and must be positive, as this is the only way that we as LIS professionals can optimize the full potential of our profession and what it stands for.

One of the things we have not all fully grasped is the strength that is inherent in our profession or the powerful impact that we can each have as LIS professionals. Many of us underestimate our potential and the value that we can make and must contribute to our societies.

One of the comments that was made at the President-elect's brainstorming session at this conference, which cannot be repeated too often, is that as a profession we have been and are very good at talking to and among ourselves. We have not been as successful in talking to and with others, particularly those who have the power to help us integrate and embed libraries into the highest levels of decision-making. While there are those who believe that libraries do not get votes and hence do not require support, I believe that if we can demonstrate that through libraries and librarians there can be quantitative and qualitative improvements in health issues, entrepreneurial skills development, environmental protection, poverty alleviation, a reduction in illiteracy, the development of a respect for diversity and all of the other issues that politicians and others in decision making roles hold dear – that not only will we be providing access to knowledge, but we will also be able to demonstrate that libraries and librarians are key to the political process and national development.

While the theme of my year refers to libraries, implicit and inherent in the phrase is the pivotal role that you, and I, as library and information professionals must and can play in making knowledge accessible to all. It is an imperative that we unreservedly have a commitment to and a concern for the public good, which must encompass a respect for diversity and espouses the principle of equality and human rights for all. The members of IFLA are but a microcosm of the world's reality – a diversity which is in itself one of IFLA's strengths. It would be remiss of me, however, not to acknowledge that embedded in this diversity are uneven opportunities to provide access to knowledge. Not all of us practice in communities and societies where the latest technology is available at our finger tips, where libraries are reasonably or abundantly resourced, or where reliable electrical and broadband services are given.

Nevertheless, even within those situations, it is still necessary to provide access to knowledge for all. Librarians practicing in such environments need support and assistance. We should therefore work together and offer guidance and mentorship to professionals whose working realities are not privileged as others. It is through such acts that we will help to make the world a better place and help to realize one of the pillars of IFLA – Information for all and underlying concept of the theme Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge.

Further, the empowerment of our users is inextricably intertwined in Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge. The creation and use of knowledge does not occur in a vacuum – people use knowledge for a variety of reasons – to learn, to grow, to make decisions and for recreational and entertainment purposes, in fact the list is limitless. The crucial role that libraries play in the empowerment of their users is that they are the facilitating agencies to access the information they need. One of the ways in which libraries empower their users is that they, the users, are assured that they are accessing information with the knowledge that the information they receive is as reliable as it can be. That provides the user with a considerable level of comfort and places the library in a strong position as a social service of the highest value.

There is another aspect of my theme to which I would like to turn our thoughts for a few moments – that is the role of libraries and librarians as creators of knowledge. While libraries have traditionally been spaces and places where one can access knowledge that is already available, it is only recently that we have become to recognize our potential in the knowledge creation process.

When a young entrepreneur visits a library as part of his or her investigation for the development of a new product, process or service, seldom is the critical role that the library and librarian played in the resultant end product acknowledged. However, without the information gleaned from the library visit or visits and often the extensive assistance of a librarian or two, the positive outcome of the entrepreneur's work could have been otherwise. But the knowledge creation process is not only with regard to the work of others. When we package and bundle existing information in such a way that an information-seeker is able to have at their fingertips exactly what they need to make a reasoned decision or further their research enquiries, our efforts are not confined to only providing access to knowledge and information, by our actions we have become knowledge creators. In such an instance, not only are we driving access to knowledge, we are creators of knowledge and thus become part of the knowledge building process, one of the underpinnings of the knowledge society of which we are an integral dimension.

Over the next two years I, with your help, will seek to ensure the potential of libraries as sources

of access to knowledge is better realized. It will not be an easy task, but then few things that are worthwhile are easy to accomplish. I see a bright future for libraries and librarians as we strive to ensure that our service communities are better served, that the full potential of each and every individual is realized and knowledge becomes accessible to all. Libraries, with the help of each

of us, can and will drive access to knowledge. It is up to us to make it happen and with your help I know that I will be able to say, “yes, (not, “we can”) – “we will” make Libraries Drive Access to Knowledge.

I thank you!

# Electronic Book Collection Development in Italy: a case study

**Agnese Perrone**



Agnese Perrone attended the course of librarianship at the University of Parma and obtained a librarianship degree in February 2005 with a dissertation about e-book use in Italy, 'Indagine sull'uso dell'e-book in Italia', available from D-space (Parma University Open Archive) at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1889/42>. After her degree she undertook a placement at the Northumbria University Library, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, working with the Subject and Liaison Team on the management of the electronic resources and following the e-book collection development project. From January 2006 to November 2007 she worked as sales assistant for Cenfor International, an Italian provider of electronic resources for academic libraries, and from December 2007 she has been working as a member of the digital library staff for Cilea, one of the three Italian academic library consortia. Since September 2006 she has been attending the MA/MSc course in International Information Studies (Parma University, Italy and Northumbria University, UK)

About the Author continued on page 312

## Abstract

The paper reports the results of a research project that aimed to investigate how academic librarians are managing the integration of electronic book collections in their library holdings and focuses on the selection criteria and collection development issues. The background is represented by the Italian academic libraries that have been lately involved in electronic book collection development projects, and by the Italian digital publishing e-books offer.

**Keywords:** electronic books; collection development; academic libraries; Italy

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## Purpose of this Paper

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The research project aimed to investigate how librarians are managing the integration of electronic book collections in their library holdings, focusing on the selection criteria issues. The main intent is to identify the gap between the plurality of access and business models of electronic book collections offered by publishers and the issues that academic librarians are tackling in terms of selection, collection management, analysis of users' needs and budget limitations. The paper describes the case study carried out by the researcher for the dissertation of the International Master in Information Science, jointly delivered by Parma University, Parma, Italy and Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Two interviews and a questionnaire were done between February and July 2008 whereas the analysis of the results was carried out between September 2008 and January 2009.

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## Background

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### Electronic Book Collections in Academic Libraries

The implementation of electronic book collections in the academic library holdings has been growing in the last few years and many universities show electronic books in their library collections (Ashcroft and Watts 2004, p. 285). Different studies have been carried out so as to investigate how libraries have integrated electronic book collections in their holdings and how electronic book collections have been proposed to users. Sutton (2003) reported the success of the patron-driven access model at the Wayne State University, while Armstrong and Lonsdale (2005) analyzed focus groups' opinions about the integration of e-books in higher education libraries in the United Kingdom in 2005. Bennett and Landoni (2005) as well as Qari (2005) analysed the use of electronic books among students in UK universities and focused on the importance of the organization of training courses and specific seminars.

### **Electronic Books and Collection Development Issues**

Even though different issues have been analyzed and discussed in the literature, such as access and business models, quality of contents and users' needs (i.e. Anuradha and Usha 2006; Su 2005; Safley 2006; Rice 2006), and different projects have been carried out (i.e. Langston 2003; Park 2007), electronic book collections are neither included in liaison with academic department programmes nor related to course reading lists, and they seem not to be a part of a conscious collection development strategy (Ashcroft and Watts 2004, p. 285).

It is difficult to point out the data librarians mostly take into consideration and how these data influence their collection development decisions. Usage statistics from vendors, feedback from academic staff as well as from students (Blake and Schleper 2004), cost, licensing and digital rights management issues, the influence of library consortia (Miller 2002, p. 98), can all be considered influencing factors during the evaluation. These issues lead to new collection development approach and management. Librarians no longer acquire and keep products physically but subscribe to services characterized by licenses limited to a given period of time. They no longer keep the property rights of the products purchased but subscribe to licenses that offer archival rights which can change when publishers purchase, sell, or transfer products (San Jose and Pacios 2005, p. 193). In this regard, new professional and management skills are required for librarians (Ashcroft and Watts 2004, p. 290). They have now to analyse products taking into consideration the quality of the contents proposed, not only in relation to the users' needs, but also in relation to their price and to the level of control there is over the products they are subscribing to (Guijarro 2000, in San Jose and Pacios 2005).

### **E-book Collection Development in Italy: which projects and which policies?**

In Italy the issue related to the diffusion of electronic books in academic libraries and to the electronic book collection development policies is still in its early stages. Even though the management and the negotiation of electronic journals have commonly been accepted and consolidated, some reservations still remain. The review of the literature reveals that only a few universities have lately carried out projects about the integration

of electronic book collections into their holdings. These projects have been presented in two seminars held in 2005 and 2006 on the occasion of the Italian library meeting, Bibliostar, and they have been published by the Italian librarianship journal *Biblioteche Oggi*.

#### *Politecnico di Milano*

Politecnico di Milano is one of the major Polytechnic Universities in Italy with more than 15,000 full time equivalent students (FTE). In 2004, the central library division of Politecnico di Milano (SBA – Sistema Bibliotecario di Ateneo) undertook a pilot project about the integration of electronic book collections as a tool to support teaching and research activities. A scientific committee was set up to focus on the following:

- analysis of publishers' proposals
- evaluation of contents
- evaluation of access and licensing models.

This phase of the project was supported by the teaching staff, who gave suggestions about the evaluation of contents for the different subject areas. Their help was useful during the acquisition phase and pertinent to the users' needs. The result was the development of an electronic books collection offering contents by different publishers. This heterogeneity came up as a weakness during the evaluation phase of the project, especially for the library management workflow. It was common to find overlapping titles, especially among collections that were subscribed in bundles, without a title per title selection. Another issue was related to the usage statistics. At the time of the implementation, formats and data of the usage statistics provided by publishers were widely different and hard to compare. As the evaluation of the project was mostly based on these data, the lack of standardization limited a pertinent analysis of the usage of the resources. The project ended in 2006 and when the librarian in charge of the SBA group delivered her presentation in 2007, she reported some issues that still remained under discussion, such as the definition of collection development policies peculiar to electronic book collections (Cirulli 2006).

#### *Università degli Studi di Bologna*

The University of Bologna is one of the most ancient universities in Italy, with many faculties dedicated to different subject areas: Humanities,

Social Sciences, Maths, Engineering, etc. The electronic book collection development project was carried out by the library of the Faculty of Engineering as a new tool to support teaching and research activities. The project started in 2002 and was carried out with the financial support of the central library. The first step of the project was the selection and then the subscription to an engineering handbook database. In this phase no scientific committee was set up and the choice of contents, access and licensing models was totally carried out by the librarians of the Faculty. The selection focused on a Science, Technology and Medicine (STM) handbook collection, identified as a good reference tool for students and researchers. The second step of the project (called 'communication strategy') aimed to promote the collection among the users of the library and proceeded as follows:

- setting up specific reference plans for students working on their dissertation
- information about the new collection through the library website and through specific leaflets
- e-mail messages sent to students, librarians and lecturers.

This strategy reported some weaknesses, especially due to the high number of students, lecturers and researchers of the Faculty of Engineering. To get over this issue, librarians decided to undertake a programme of semantic and descriptive cataloguing for each title to fully integrate the collection in the library OPAC. This way of proceeding was successful as the usage statistics recorded a high number of accesses to the database from the OPAC during the project time (from 2002 to 2004). The analysis of the usage statistics revealed also that some titles were heavily consulted whereas others were consulted less or never. This brought attention to the selection criteria used to evaluate the contents proposed by publishers, and focused on the necessity for more flexible licensing models that allow librarians title per title selection instead of the acquisition of predefined packages or databases. (Zani 2006)

### *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Piacenza*

The project about the electronic book collection development started in 2005 and was carried out by the library staff of Piacenza University, one of the five branches of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. The project aimed to increase the library services, providing a new tool to support

teaching and research activities. The evaluation of the contents was only made by the library staff and no scientific committee was set up. Librarians considered the following criteria during the selection:

- title per title selection for the subjects required (economics and agriculture)
- agreement for an annual fee based on the number of titles subscribed
- MARC record for each electronic book
- multiple concurrent access
- full text searching and title browsing
- making notes and highlighting text tools
- usage statistics reports.

Those selection criteria helped librarians to identify two electronic book collections that were subscribed to, at the end of a 30 day trial period. Different 'strategies' were undertaken by the library to promote the new collections to the users. A specific link on the library website was set up; leaflets describing the new contents were distributed among students; interviews and questionnaires were carried out in order to gather patrons' impressions and feedback. The latter, along with the analysis of the usage statistics, represented the data on which the University decided to continue or discontinue the subscription to those collections. At the end of the project (2006), the data gathered showed high numbers of accesses, especially to the electronic books on agriculture. These results led librarians to a more accurate title per title selection, focusing on the higher consulted subject area titles and laid the basis for the current Piacenza University electronic book collection development (Fiorentini 2006).

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## The Case Study: Methods

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### The Methodological Approach and the Unit of Analysis

A case study was set up and the methodological approach was selected according to a combination of multiple techniques, drawing on data obtained from two interviews and a questionnaire (Pickard and Dixon 2004). In order to focus on the Italian scenario in depth a small-scale survey was created to collect data from librarians that had been involved in the acquisition of electronic book collections and had decided to subscribe to the Italian collection Editoria Italiana Online (EIO) by Casalini. The interviews with two key informants, Paola Gargiulo, Information

Specialist at Caspur Consortium (Rome) and Tommaso Giordano, Library Deputy Director at European Institute (Fiesole), and with the Italian publisher Casalini, helped the researcher to better delineate the context of the research and to focus on the Italian academic library background.

**The Research Questions**

The research project aimed to answer the following research questions:

- which criteria do librarians consider during the evaluation and selection of electronic books in Italy?
- what do the Italian academic librarians expect from electronic books?

**Methods of Data Gathering**

Data were gathered through interviews and through a structured questionnaire. The use of different research techniques allowed the researcher a complementary view of the phenomenon studied (Lambert and Loiseau 2008, p. 230). Table 1 shows the research techniques used in correlation with the study objectives.

**Interviews and Questionnaire Design**

The interviews were set up according to the following steps: preliminary explanation of the research project to the interviewee; and definition of the key issues to be covered according the guidelines of the semi-structured interviews (Pickard 2007). Since descriptive information was collected through the interviews, closed-ended questions and questions with answers in the format of the

Likert scale were included in the questionnaire. Participants could choose among a set of alternative answers or could rank the options proposed (Pickard 2007). Particularly, librarians were asked to indicate the influencing issues related to electronic book collection development as well as the electronic book collection evaluation and selection criteria. The scale adopted was made of six points (1 being the lowest, 6 being the highest). The main variables considered were:

- the elements affecting the acquisition of electronic resources, particularly focusing on the electronic book collection
- librarians’ expectations about electronic book collections (in terms of contents, acquisition models, usability, etc.)
- librarians’ considerations about the project *Editoria Italiana On-Line (EIO)*.

**Data Analysis**

The data were analyzed following guidelines described in the literature. On the one hand, the pertinent statements reflecting the answers to the interview questions were transcribed (Pickard 2007, p.245). According to the constant comparative analysis (Boeije 2002) findings were categorized in order to identify the main themes and issues that would describe and explain the phenomenon under study (Melia 1997, p. 31 in Pickard 2007, p.241). On the other hand, data gathered through the questionnaire were reported using a variable base method with a focus on the different types of interval variable (Pickard 2007, p.252). As specific software for quantitative analysis was not available, all responses to questions were entered in a database and were included in specific categories.

<b>Research objectives</b>	<b>Research techniques</b>	<b>Data sources</b>
Identify the major issues concerning the diffusion of electronic book collections among the Italian Academic Libraries	Interviews	Key Informants
Identify the Italian publishers’ electronic book proposals and models	Interviews	Casalini
Understand which criteria librarians take into consideration during the evaluation and selection of electronic book collections	Questionnaire	Librarians
Identify librarians’ expectations concerning e-book in terms of contents, usability as well as interface	Questionnaire	Librarians

*Table 1. Research objectives, research techniques, data sources.*

### Findings

#### Electronic Book Collections in Italian Academic Libraries' Collection Development Policies

The results reported that although the management and the negotiation of electronic journals have been accepted and consolidated, some reservations still remain about electronic book collection development. This attitude emerged from the analysis of the literature and it was confirmed both by the interviews with the two key informants and by the librarians' responses gathered through the questionnaire. Even though collection development guidelines for electronic resources were set up by all the libraries involved in the case study, the analysis of the results revealed that the diffusion of the electronic book collections does not keep pace with that of the electronic journals. Considering the above issues, how do librarians manage and plan subscriptions to electronic book collections? The interviews with the two key informants clarified how, in Italy, the issues related to electronic book collection development policies are still under discussion. Monographs purchased as e-books are often considered as an addition of the same titles in print format, already available in the library holdings, or they are subscribed to by individual university faculties. Focusing on the matter related to the budget limitation, the key informants paid attention to the business models proposed by publishers to the academic libraries. Apart from few examples, publishers offer libraries to purchase or to subscribe to defined subject e-book collections and do not allow any 'pick and choose' option. In this way, acquisition librarians cannot freely choose which titles should or should not be acquired or subscribed to and consequently cannot fully develop good-quality e-book collections. In this regard, the key informants reaffirmed the importance of the consideration of a new collection development approach that leads librarians to deal with new issues, involving:

- the problem of finding a good balance between the collection available both in print and in electronic format
- the evaluation of users' needs in spite of the increasing budget limitations
- the lack of customized electronic resources management systems (ERMS) that support librarians for the integration and management

of a new e-resource in the library workflow (selection, orders, cataloguing, etc.)

The role of Italian library consortia was also discussed. According to the key informants, library consortia should be more active in analyzing the consortia members' needs and work with them on a set of negotiation guidelines. These should consider: the consortia members' needs, a clear definition of electronic book collections licensing policies, the analysis of contents offered also by small-size publishers, and the development of a consortial platform for the integration and access of different electronic contents.

#### The Selection Criteria Used by Librarians During the Evaluation of an E-Book Collection

The analysis of the librarians' responses revealed that the selection process is mainly influenced by two issues. On the one hand, a deep analysis of the contents offered by publishers is still being carried out in order to give the subject area represented by the library adequate coverage. On the other hand, as the lack of competitive acquisition models (packages vs. pick and choose) is considered a limiting issue to the subscription to electronic book collections, great attention is paid to publishers' proposals offering cost-effective business models that do not tie up the budget management of the library. The selection process is turning out to be challenging, not only in terms of budget, but also in terms of 'choice of contents'. Some studies confirm that by receiving titles that would not be chosen for the collections, but which come as part of the package, librarians have ceded some of their selection control to publishers and vendors (Soules 2009, p. 17). Titles that are part of a package are chosen by specific committees on the basis of different criteria, such as copyright, availability of a specific title, publishers and vendor shifts and other changes (Soules 2009, p.18) and they are not necessarily selected on content-based criteria. The librarians' responses confirmed how all these issues represent a threat to the development of customized electronic book collections and influence the guidelines that should be followed during the selection and evaluation processes:

- the importance of the evaluation of users' needs
- the real and potential use of the collection
- quality, in terms of contents and update.

**A Comparison between Editoria Italiana On-line and Librarians' Management Issues and Expectations**

The case study revealed that librarians have great expectations from electronic book collections in terms of updated contents, timely publication, easier access and cost-effective acquisition models as well as usability and effective platform research functionalities. These expectations do not often match publishers' e-book proposals, that do not always offer updated and high quality contents in standardized formats, and establish too many restrictive limits to the print, copy and download functionalities. The information gathered through the interview with the publisher Michele Casalini revealed an interesting approach to the development of the project Editoria Italiana On-line (EIO), which aims to offer academic libraries Italian high quality scholarly contents in original language. The analysis of users' needs carried out by the Casalini Digital Division team led up to consider the importance of offering a fair business model that, on the one hand, allows libraries to choose either among different subject collections or among different types of publications (e-books, e-journals, proceedings). On the other hand, it allows libraries to customize the collection, changing up to 20 percent of the titles or moving to a small collection in case of budget limitations. This approach could be considered an important key point of the project, especially in the light of what Michele Casalini stated when talking about EIO's guidelines:

“Contents available in electronic format have been initially proposed by big publishers and mostly in English language. There was a monopolization of the resources dedicated to academic libraries and a threat to the variety of contents that should characterize the collection of each library. The project started from the analysis of this consideration and led to the development of a single interface so as to optimise the access to Italian high quality scholarly contents in original language” (M. Casalini, personal communication, July 2008).

But does this approach fully meet librarians' needs and expectations? The questionnaire showed that the features librarians mostly considered during the evaluation of Editoria Italiana On-line were:

- permanent access to the contents purchased
- the opportunity to integrate the records into the OPAC and link them to other resources

- multiple concurrent access
- high quality contents.

All the above issues are related to the contents offered both in terms of quality and updatedness as well as in terms of content management. Since EIO is considered an “ongoing challenging project” by Michele Casalini, all the publisher's efforts are now focused on the evaluation of new titles to offer, on a new interface and content management tools to be developed, in order to follow the new market trends and keep EIO up-to-date in terms of contents and technological infrastructure. All these efforts aim to meet librarians' requests, but mean for the publisher a big technological investment to move from the old formats to the newest ones. Furthermore, it represents for libraries (even with the purchase or subscription model) a way to begin to pay an annual platform fee. As the literature confirms, this is particularly troublesome because most librarians are not in a position to commit to ongoing costs (Soules 2009, p.18) especially with the latest budget restrictions. The questionnaire responses revealed that librarians' primary consideration during the renewal evaluation of EIO will be related to the cost of the new contents offered and not to the users' requests or to the usage statistics. This represents a threat for the development of electronic book collections that fully meet users' needs. In this scenario, the literature can be linked to what the key informants advanced: acquisition librarians should understand that traditional categories will no longer entirely hold (Soules 2009, p. 18). They need to develop a new collection development approach, fully considering users' needs and beginning to participate in negotiating contracts dealing with library consortia and developing with them new tools for the evaluations of new contents focused on libraries' needs and mission.

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**Conclusion**

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The results of the research revealed some interesting issues concerning the acquisition and selection of electronic book collections. These issues are presented in relation to the objectives of the study.

**Electronic Book Collections in Italian Academic Libraries**

Italian academic libraries' interest in electronic book collections has lately increased but some reservations still remain. The study reported

that the unwillingness to subscribe to e-books refers mostly to the lack of: competitive business models, updated contents, standardized formats, customized electronic resources management systems (ERMS) as support to the library workflow (selection, orders, cataloguing, etc.) Findings revealed that librarians deal with new issues that require new professional and management skills but they are not supported by collection development policies peculiar to electronic book collections. This represents a limit for the diffusion of e-books in academic libraries and focuses the attention on the development of a new collection approach.

### **Italian Publishers' Electronic Book Collections**

The study reported a lack of Italian scholarly contents available as e-books in the international publishing industry. Literature reported only few examples of electronic book collections by Italian publishers. Among these, Editoria Italiana On-line (EIO) by Casalini gathers a collection of Italian electronic publishing, allowing online access to full-text works by different publishers through a specific interface. The project aimed to offer high quality scholarly contents in electronic format and in original languages. Librarians can select among works from small or medium sized publishers which are not included in big publishers' proposals. Particular attention is paid to the quality of the contents offered in order to avoid any threat to the variety of contents that should characterize the collection of each library.

Librarians appreciate EIO because of the high quality contents offered in the fields of humanities and social sciences, but some reservations still remain concerning the usability of the interface.

### **The Evaluation and Selection of Electronic Book Collections**

The analysis of electronic book collections includes the consideration of different factors such as evaluation of contents, cost, licensing issues, recommendations from faculty members and often the influence of consortia (Brody 2001 in Miller 2002, p. 98). These issues imply important changes in the selection process of electronic contents if compared with that of print materials. Librarians focus on the evaluation of users' needs, the analysis of contents (quality and update), business models, archival rights, etc. but they are mostly influenced by budget issues. Findings revealed

that, during the selection process, librarians are more influenced by the cost of a collection than by users' requests. This threatens the development of electronic book collections relevant to the users' needs and leads librarians to ask publishers for more flexible business models.

### **Librarians' Expectations Concerning Electronic Book Collections**

The study revealed that librarians have great expectations about contents in electronic format. Focusing on e-books, they refer to updated contents, timely publication, easier access as well as competitive purchasing models and effective platform research functionalities. These expectations do not often match publishers' e-book proposals, that do not always offer updated and high quality contents in standardized formats, and establish too many restrictive DRM limits. These issues represent a limit to a wider diffusion of electronic book collections in academic libraries and focus on the role of Italian library consortia which should be more active in the development of a set of negotiation guidelines that fully meet the library consortia members' needs.

### **Limitations**

Being a small-scale research undertaken by a single investigator, some limitations can be considered. On the one hand the phase of evaluation and selections is only one aspect of the library collection development of e-books, that involves other important issues. On the other hand, the unit of analysis was restricted to a small group of Italian librarians and to only one Italian publisher's proposal. Moreover, the results of the research are strictly related to the moment in which the case study was carried out. As the situation of electronic services and products is continuously evolving, the same research undertaken in 2 years' time may give different outcomes.

### **Recommendations for Further Research**

The analysis of the results revealed interesting new issues to be analysed. As a matter of fact, there are many complex collection development issues surrounding the selection, the acquisition and promotion of electronic book collections (Armstrong and Lonsdale 2005). Data gathered from the interviews and questionnaire suggested that some new aspects should be investigated. For example, the analysis of the quality of contents

offered by publishers, the role of academic library consortia offering new guidelines for collection development projects (Albanese 2009) and, due to the recent budget restrictions, the analysis of return on investment (ROI) issues (Kaufman and Watstain 2008).

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**About the Author continued**

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# Internet Use in Israeli Universities: a case study

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## Abstract

This paper presents the results of a survey conducted in 2005–2006 regarding the extent of use of digital resources by students and researchers in five universities in Israel and the ratio of use between authorized electronic information resources provided by academic libraries, and the Surface Web. About 80 percent of respondents reported a high or very high frequency of use of the Surface Web for seeking information for their study or research. In contrast, only about 28 percent of the respondents reported high or very high use of academic e-journals, 40 percent high or very high use of digital databases, and only about 13 percent high or very high use of e-books. A situation in which academics use the Surface Web two or three times more frequently than more authoritative digital information sources provided by their library indicates a severe problem related to the quality of information used, which may severely harm the quality and credibility of research based upon it. The survey findings are worrying since much Surface Web information is not reliable or authoritative. The current research does not indicate what causes students and researchers to depend so heavily on Surface Web information for their research, but it is reasonable to assume that it derives mainly from the ease and convenience of using Internet search engines.

**Keywords:** Internet; user studies; universities; Israel

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## Introduction

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In the last few years, the extent of Internet usage in Israel and the world has increased dramatically. The Web is used for various purposes, from surfing for pleasure to finding information. The availability of the Web, its ease of use, and the numerous needs it can answer immediately, have turned it into a key player in the cultural and social life of the 21st century.

There has also been a dramatic change in the use of Internet resources for academic purposes: if, in the past, students and faculty members first approached academic libraries when they needed information, nowadays they first consult the Internet (Troll 2002).

This has caused widespread concern among librarians and information professionals, who fear that the Internet will replace other sources of information, both printed and digital, available in academic libraries. This concern derives foremost from the fact that the information available on the Internet is still only partial, while much information still exists only in printed format. Furthermore, Web search engines index only a small amount of the information residing on the Web and most users do not access the information existing on the 'Invisible Web'<sup>1</sup> which is considered some 500 times larger than the 'Surface Web'<sup>2</sup>

Another concern deals with the quality of the information in Internet resources when used for academic purposes. While the Invisible Web contains high quality information, that on the Surface Web

is mostly not appropriate for educational or academic purposes and some of it may even be incorrect or biased. Thus, an excessive tendency to rely on the Surface Web may generate superficial research habits, imperil the value of academic information, and adversely affect the quality of research and academic publications.

Naturally, there is more concern regarding over-reliance on Web information by students than by professional researchers. It is reasonable to assume that academic researchers are more aware that sometimes the best resources for a specific discipline may exist only in printed form, while students may not be able to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources, and as a result of the nature of their assignments have less time and motivation to look up printed resources. (Troll 2002).

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### A Problem Statement

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University students and researchers at all levels use the Surface Web as well as other electronic resources for study and research. Yet no study has probed the extent of Internet usage among students and researchers in Israel. This paper presents the results of a survey conducted in 2005–2006 regarding the use of digital resources in five universities in Israel. One of the main purposes of the survey was to ascertain the extent of use of digital resources among students and researchers, and the ratio of use between authorized electronic information resources provided by academic libraries, and the Surface Web. Another purpose was to see whether there are differences in the way students and faculty members use library electronic information resources and the Surface Web, as well as whether differences exist between scholarly disciplines. The importance and contribution of this research lies in raising the issue and encouraging information professionals to find solutions to the changing requirements of academic library users.

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### Literature Review

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Studies carried out in the United States, Canada, England and elsewhere indicate that the Internet has become an important and central source of information in the academic world. Students and faculty perceive the Internet as the main source of information and access to it is perceived as a

basic privilege of the scholar. According to Falk (2003), the Internet has become the foremost source of information for students and faculty in colleges and universities in the United States. Falk reports on a survey conducted by McGraw-Hill Ryerson which revealed that 62 percent of faculty members use Internet content in the courses they teach, and most respondents indicated their intention to incorporate more Internet-based content and research tools into future classes. Moreover, in a survey of 1,800 faculty members in institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada, it was found that 83 percent of faculty members believe that Web-based technology has become a key factor for students' success in their studies (Falk 2003).

The strengthened role of the Internet as a central information resource in the academic world is reflected in its increased use for academic research. Studies show that Internet search engines are the first or main information source used by students (Al Harbi 2002; Tenopir 2003; Urquhart et al. 2005). According to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of college students say they use the Internet more than the library, while only 9 percent said they use the library more than the Internet for retrieving information (Jones 2002).

A partial explanation for the strong use of the Internet among students for locating academic information is age dependent. College students, for example, learn to surf the Internet at an early age and do so more widely than the rest of the population. When they reach college, the use of this technology has already been assimilated into their daily communication habits and is taken for granted as part of their daily routine. Research indicates the extensive use of the Internet by college students for intra-academic needs and for other routine needs (Jones 2002). The use of the Internet specifically to locate academic information is influenced by the fact that from an early age they are familiar with a computerized and networked environment. College students shape their information search habits at an early age. A report published in June 2001 by the Pew Internet & American Life Project found that 94 percent of teenagers who used the Internet also did so for school assignments and that 71 percent used the Internet as a main information source for school projects (Jones 2002). Thus, for most college students, the Internet is a functional tool that significantly affects the way they access information.

Over and above early socialization, the Internet has significant advantages as a tool of high accessibility, convenience of use and continuous availability, causing it to be extensively used by students. A comprehensive study conducted by NetLibrary<sup>3</sup> on about 2,000 colleges in the United States found that most of the research participants (82 percent) had computers and reported that they use the Internet, and 75 percent reported that they love the convenience of Internet use. Another study found that 80 percent of students in three universities in the United States responded that in the future they would use the Internet even more extensively (Perry, T.T., Perry, L.A. and Hosack-Curlin 1998).

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### Internet Information and the Academic Library

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Research shows that while the use of the Internet for finding academic information grows, libraries are visited less frequently. A comprehensive study conducted under the sponsorship of the Digital Library Federation (DLF) and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) checked the usage habits of scholars in a vast variety of academic institutions in the United States. Of the respondents, 45.9 percent indicated that they relied on Internet information without any further verification (Friedlander 2002). In another survey, of graduates of the Communication Department of the University of Florida, 26 percent of the respondents indicated that during the course of their studies they had never used the university's academic library to find academic information (Al Harbi 2002).

Indeed, the academic community perceives the library as a less available, less accessible and less convenient information source than the Internet. In a comprehensive study conducted by NetLibrary, 75 percent of the students surveyed claimed to not have enough time to go to the library, 71 percent mentioned favorably the time they saved since they can look for information on the Internet at any time day or night, and 83 percent claimed that the limited opening hours of the library often prevent them from looking for the material they need when they need it. These differences of attitude towards the library and the Internet regarding availability, accessibility, and convenience clearly indicate the relationship between increased Internet usage and decreased dependence on the academic library. In the same study, sponsored by the CLIR and

DLF, 35 percent of the respondents indicated that they used the library considerably less than they had done 2 years previously because they now use the Internet for some of their information needs. Furthermore, 80 percent of the faculty and students believed that the Internet had changed the way they used the academic library (Friedlander 2002). In a study of graduates of the Communication Department at the University of Florida, 54 percent of the respondents felt the same way. The same study also presented a typical behavior profile of a student looking for information, showing that students first approach the Internet, and only then the academic library (Al Harbi 2002).

Nonetheless, aside from the findings indicating that academic libraries are perceived as less available and less convenient, there are also findings attesting the advantages of the academic library. A considerable portion of students in a focus group and survey research conducted at Carnegie Mellon university do express an interest in obtaining authoritative information from the libraries, but feel that it seems to be unattainable due to the libraries' limited availability (Troll 2002). Studies of academic credibility, referring to the differences between Internet information resources and authoritative information resources, do indicate that the authoritative information resources of the libraries are perceived as more credible and reliable. Comprehensive research sponsored by CLIR and DLF in 2002 showed that the library is still perceived as the main source of credible and reliable information. More than 98 percent of the survey respondents agreed with the statement "The library of my institution contains information from known and reliable sources" (Friedlander 2002). In the same study, differences were also found between the degree of credibility ascribed to Internet information by undergraduates and by faculty members and graduates. Thus, 54 percent of the undergraduates trusted information from the Internet as compared to 41 percent of the faculty and graduates (Friedlander 2002).

The expansion of Internet use and the digital age have influenced academic libraries in another way. Academic libraries are changing in response to the transformations of the educational and research environment, and to the demands of library users (Troll 2002). As options for transferring information via the Web expand, libraries add new digital information services and sources. Academic libraries make e-journals, digital databases, e-books and other digital sources available for remote

access. More and more libraries offer the academic community online catalogs, advanced search and retrieval functions, and accessibility independent of location and time.

Despite the ever-growing tendency of libraries to offer access to electronic information, students still prefer to use Internet sources over the authoritative digital sources of the library. Close observations of Internet use of college students in the library and in computer labs of the campus of 27 colleges and universities in the United States showed that students with an academic assignment due used commercial search engines rather than the university or library databases (Jones 2002). Some even explicitly stated that it is easier to do research on the Internet. Scholars and librarians are concerned about this statement since it means that students lack the basic skills required to find reliable academic sources for research. In this context it must be mentioned that only a few universities in the United States make it mandatory for students to attend Information Search courses; most make do with a lecture on this issue in the introductory meetings at the start of the first school year (Jones 2002).

At the same time, studies indicate that students are interested in expanding the digital information sources currently provided by the library (Friedlander 2002; Liew and Foo, 2000) as well as being granted access to the digital information in the academic library any time of day or night (Troll 2002). Differences still exist between young undergraduates and faculty members and graduates in the extent to which they prefer the digital format to the printed format. Research conducted by CLIR and DLF regarding the extent of use of printed and electronic information sources for research, study and teaching, revealed that approximately half the undergraduates reported using mainly or solely electronic information, while over 70 percent of the graduate students reported using printed information most or all of the time (Friedlander 2002).

It is possible that this difference relates to digital working patterns acquired at an early age. A comprehensive survey conducted for CLIR regarding electronic sources of information in libraries concluded that young users tend to use electronic sources more than older users (Tenopir 2003). Regarding the older age groups, a study carried out for CLIR by Stanford University Library in 1996, to check how researchers use the *Journal*

*of Biological Chemistry*, which is available in both electronic and printed versions, showed that half of the researchers used both formats at the same time, while the other half used the printed version only. When the latter were asked why they did not use the electronic version, they answered that they prefer paper. The study revealed that those scientists who did not grow up around computers had difficulty getting used to the journal's electronic format (Gotsch and Reich 1996).

In conclusion, student and faculty participate in the ever-growing use of the Internet and tend to use it when searching for academic information. This tendency is stronger among those who grew up in a computerized environment and assimilated Internet search habits. The easy availability and high accessibility of the Internet, its convenience, simplicity of use, and the ease of getting information, influence usage. The library is perceived as less accessible, less convenient, and involving greater complexity in getting information. Moreover, researches indicate that while students do show an interest in accessing the authoritative information sources of the library, they are limited by the lack of the required skills. Instructors, researchers, and graduate students are more critical than undergraduates of the credibility of the Internet as compared to library electronic and print sources.

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### Methodology

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The study's target population consisted of students and researchers at five research universities in Israel. At first, in order to do random sampling, an attempt was made to random sample the entire target population. An attempt to attain a list of the entire target population was frustrated by lack of cooperation by some university officials. Therefore we decided upon a relatively wide but nonrandom sampling. In the Spring of 2005, 1,000 questionnaires were distributed, to which 721 students and researchers (72.1 percent) responded. The questionnaires were distributed among students and teachers in the various university divisions, in classrooms, and in the libraries. In addition, the questionnaires were distributed through departmental secretariats and in the faculty's personal mailboxes. Nevertheless, the fact that the sampling is nonrandom is limiting.

The research tool was a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire included 30 questions and

consisted of two main parts: demographic data and patterns of information usage.

## Results

### Demographic Data of the Sample Groups

Some 69 percent of the sample group were undergraduate students, 23 percent master's degree students and 8 percent were research students and researchers. More than half of the respondents (52 percent) were in the 18–25 age group; 28 percent were in the second largest age group (26–30), and the rest (20 percent) were 31 years old or older. The largest number in the sample (47 percent) were studying in the Social Sciences, followed by Humanities (29 percent), Exact Sciences (14 percent), Life Sciences (7 percent), and others (3 percent). Women constituted 56.7 percent of all respondents.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (about 91 percent) reported having an Internet connection at their home or office. An even higher proportion (95.1 percent) admitted that they were aware that their institution's library enables remote access to its digital information sources. Nonetheless, only about 58.6 percent of the respondents were connected to these sources.

### Distribution of Frequency of Internet Use in General

In order to differentiate between respondents' use of the Internet for academic purposes (study and research) as opposed to its use for other purposes, we checked the extent to which they use

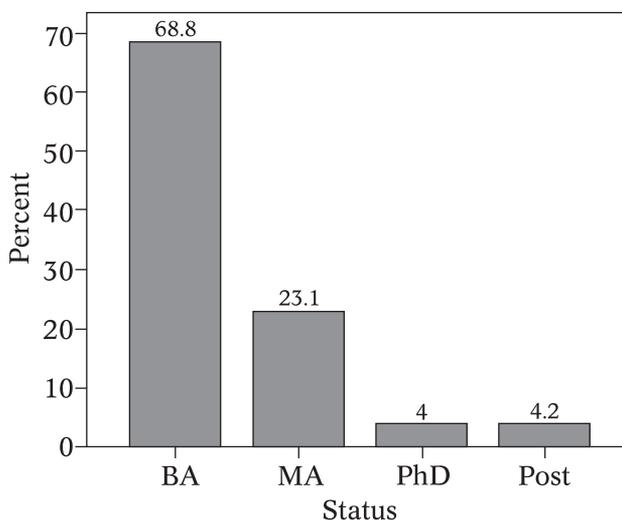


Figure 1. Distribution of respondents by academic status.

the Internet for browsing, using electronic mail, searching for information, shopping and other uses. Table 1 shows that 70.9 percent of the respondents use the Internet daily and 22.9 percent use it several times a week. The rest (6.1 percent) use it once a week or less, or not at all. Thus the overwhelming majority (93.8 percent) use the Internet at least several times a week.

### Extent of Surface Web Use for Academic Purposes

The overwhelming majority of respondents (77.9 percent) frequently use the Surface Web for academic purposes such as study and research; small differences were found between the various age groups, the different learning status groups and the diverse disciplines.

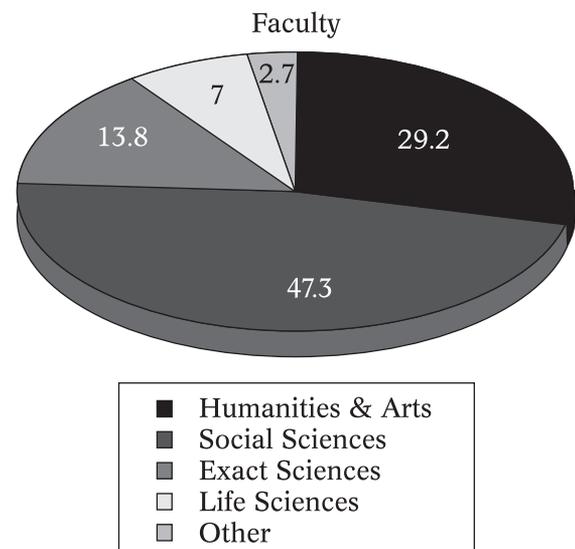


Figure 2. Distribution of respondents by scientific discipline.

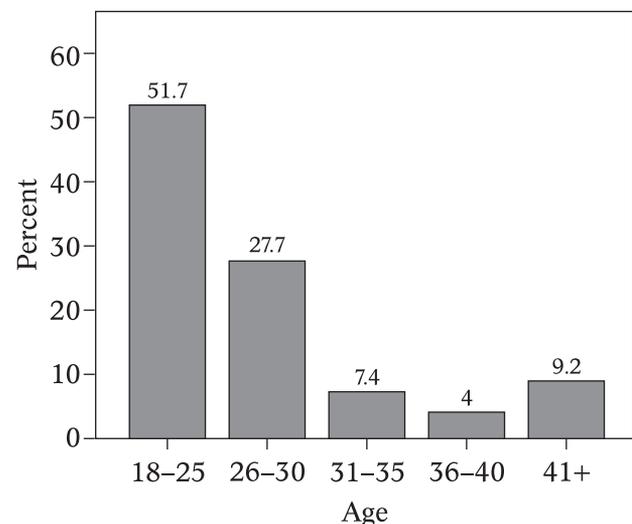


Figure 3. Distribution of respondents by age.

Frequency of use	No.	%	Valid %
Every day	510	70.7	70.9
Several times a week	165	22.9	22.9
Once a week	28	3.9	3.9
Once a month	13	1.8	1.8
None	3	0.4	0.4
Total	719	99.7	100.0
Missing system	2	0.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Table 1. Frequency of Internet use in general.

Frequency of use	No.	%	Valid %
No use	15	2.1	2.1
Low	32	4.4	4.5
Medium	110	15.3	15.5
High	207	28.7	29.2
Very high	346	48.0	48.7
Total	710	98.5	100.0
Missing system	11	1.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Table 2. Frequency of Surface Web use for academic purposes: general.

These findings are surprising, since the extent of Surface Web use for study and research could have been expected to be much higher among undergraduate students than among graduate students or researchers. One would assume that students just starting their studies in an academic institution would tend to rely more on the Surface Web (whose quality is not very high but is readily available and convenient), and make more use of more qualitative sources as their learning progresses. Nevertheless, the survey indicates that even graduate students rely heavily on Surface Web information. A decreased dependency on the Surface Web occurs at the highest level only – the post-doctorate group.

Also, no significant differences were found among the respondents in different age groups, and the majority (around 80 percent) of all the age groups

reported a high or very high frequency of use for learning and research purposes. This figure is also a bit surprising because it was expected (based on previous surveys) to see more extensive use in the younger age groups.

Further more, only small differences were found among the various disciplines, and in all disciplines, around 80 percent of the respondents reported high or very high frequency of use.

The current statistical survey does not provide explanations for the heavy use of surface Web by all groups. Possibly the answer lies in the ease and convenience of using Internet search engines, especially compared to the digital databases provided by the academic library.

### Extent of Use of Authoritative Digital Sources Provided by the Academic Library

We checked to what extent students and researchers use the electronic sources provided by the academic library, which are generally perceived as more authoritative and credible than Surface Web information: academic e-journals, digital databases and e-books. Only 28.1 percent of the respondents use e-journals in a high or very high frequency, 29.9 percent do so fairly frequently, and 42.1 percent use them occasionally or do not use them at all. Overall only 40 percent of all respondents reported a high or very high frequency of use of digital databases, while 31.7 percent indicated a low frequency or no use at all. Only 13.5 percent reported a high or very high frequency of use of e-books.

Israeli scholars show a clear preference for using the Surface Web as a source of information for study and research over the electronic information resources provided by academic libraries for the same purposes. While the overwhelming majority of survey respondents (about 80 percent) reported a high or very high frequency of use of the Surface Web for their study and research needs, only about 28 percent of them reported a similarly frequent use of e-journals, some 40 percent reported a high to very high use frequency of digital databases while only about 13 percent indicated a high to very high use frequency of e-books. It seems, therefore, that academic users use the Surface Web two to three times more frequently than they do the electronic sources provided by the academic library (i.e. databases, e-journals and e-books).

Frequency of use	BA	MA	PhD	Post
	%	%	%	%
No use	1.7	2.5	74	3.4
Low	4.2	5.6	3.7	3.4
Medium	15.7	13.7	11.1	24.1
High	29.7	31.1	25.9	24.1
Very high	48.6	47.2	51.9	44.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3. Frequency of Surface Web use for academic purposes by academic status.

Frequency of use	Age (years)				
	18-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41+
	%	%	%	%	%
No use	1.9	2.5		6.9	1.5
Low	3.9	6.0	1.9	10.3	3.1
Medium	17.4	14.0	13.2	6.9	15.4
High	29.5	27.5	35.8	31.0	26.2
Very high	47.4	50.0	49.1	44.8	53.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4. Frequency of Surface Web use for academic purposes by age group.

Frequency of use	Humanities & Art	Social Sciences	Exact Sciences	Life Sciences
	%	%	%	%
No use	1.5	3.2	2.2	
Low	4.1	5.4	3.3	6.8
Medium	17.5	12.5	18.5	11.4
High	30.9	27.5	20.7	34.1
Very high	45.9	51.4	55.4	47.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 5. Frequency of Surface Web use for academic purposes by discipline.

Frequency of use	Digital databases	E-journals	E-books
No use	9.4	18.5	34.0
Low	22.3	23.6	28.7
Medium	28.2	29.9	23.8
High	27.2	19.2	8.9
Very high	12.8	8.9	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 6. Frequency of use of digital databases, e-journals and e-books.

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## Conclusions

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The data obtained by the current survey regarding the extent of use of Internet in general and of the Internet for study and research purposes by the academic population in Israel, is somewhat surprising. First, it was found that the overwhelming majority of the academic population (about 94 percent) uses the Internet at least several times a week for browsing, electronic mail, information retrieval, shopping, and other uses. About 80 percent of the respondents reported a high or very high frequency of use of the Surface Web for seeking information for their study or research.

The last finding should raise concern among the academic community in Israel in general, and information professionals in particular, since the Surface Web is not perceived as qualitative or reliable. In contrast to the use of the Surface Web, only about 28 percent of the survey respondents reported a high or very high use frequency of academic e-journals, 40 percent – a high or very high use frequency of digital databases, and only about 13 percent – a high or very high use frequency of e-books. A situation in which academics use the Surface Web two or three times more frequently than more authoritative electronic information sources provided by their library indicates a severe problem related to the quality of information these scholars opt to use, which may severely harm the quality and credibility of research based upon it.

The survey findings are worrying since it is well known that much Surface Web information is not reliable or authoritative. Similar data regarding the academic world's domination by the Internet is starting to surface from other places in the world. For example, in a study conducted by the ARL in 2004 that included higher education institutions in the United States (Lippincot and Kyrillidou 2004), it was found that 67 percent of undergraduate students reported they search the Surface Web for information every day. This is three times greater than the number of undergraduates reporting that they use the digital information sources of academic libraries on a daily basis.

The results of the current study, and similar studies elsewhere, reflect a strong and worrying tendency for the Internet to dominate the academic world as a leading source of information for study

and research purposes. The academic world, with all its diversity and variations, chooses to ignore the common perception that Internet information is inferior; it also ignores other problems related to it, such as its abundance of irrelevant and inaccurate information.

The current research does not indicate what causes students and researchers to depend so heavily on Surface Web for their research. But it is reasonable to assume that it derives mainly from the ease and convenience of using Internet search engines. The user needs hardly any professional knowledge when searching for information using a search engine. The ease of use, simplicity of search, and availability, enables the user to access the required information easily and swiftly. The information, although it may not be the best or most authoritative, may be good enough considering the small amount of effort invested. In contrast, digital databases require more effort. Using them is more complicated – the user needs to know which databases to use and how to use them. It is likely that this issue causes a certain repulsion as opposed to the user-friendly search engines in the Internet. This assumption is worth testing and researching further.

## Notes

1. 'Invisible Web' – there is no uniform definition for the term which was first coined in the mid 90's and has since undergone a few modifications. In practice, it refers to the portion of the information existing in the Web that search engines have not included into their databases, whether due to technical limitations or for cost-benefit reasons (Sherman and Price, 2001).
2. 'Surface Web' – Information on the Web that is available for free and can be found by regular search engines. This content is available to the general public with no need for special authorizations.
3. NetLibrary is a division of OCLC Online Computer Library Center. OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit, membership, computer library service and research organization.

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# Libraries in Palestine

**Françoise Lefebvre-Danset**



As a chief librarian, Françoise Lefebvre-Danset was responsible for various public libraries in France between 1975 and 2007. She retired in 2007. She also carried out different activities in the fields of professional training, including in developing countries; consulting for developing public library networks; several publications, including guidelines and articles in professional journals; membership of professional associations, including the Public Libraries Section Standing Committee of IFLA and the Executive Committee of EBLIDA. She was for 5 years President of the Association des Bibliothécaires de France and then in charge of the association's international affairs, and is currently President of COBIAC (Collectif de Bibliothécaires et Intervenants en Action Culturelle) in Region Provence. Françoise Danset may be contacted at 88 rue Jean Mermoz, 13008 Marseille, France. Tel. +33(0)4 91 71 00 91. Mobile +33 (0)6 33 44 16 97. E-mail: francoise.danset@club-internet.fr

## Abstract

For several years, decentralized cooperation programs have proliferated with Palestine – cities, councils, universities – to help deploy a network of libraries in an area constantly threatened. Echoing these multiple initiatives involving many French librarians, Françoise Danset provides a provisional assessment of a significant example of international professional solidarity.

**Keywords:** libraries; international cooperation; France; Palestine

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## The Background

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It is impossible to speak of libraries in Palestine without attempting to understand and imagine what Palestine is today: not a country or a region, Palestine is a territory, or more exactly three territories – the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem – isolated from each other and encircled by high walls and impassable barriers (difficult to imagine for us Europeans who have for many years forgotten the materialization of land borders), militarily occupied and subjected to a process of galloping colonization, governed by an Authority whose headquarters is in Ramallah.

It should be recalled briefly that, in 1920 after the First World War and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Palestine was placed under British mandate, fulfilling the promise made by Lord Balfour in 1917 to create a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine, promoted by steady Jewish immigration. In the 1930s, the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and the tragedy of the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis during the Second World War provoked a continuous stream of emigration. In November 1947, the United Nations adopted a partition plan providing for the creation of a Jewish state and an Arab state and allocating 42.9 percent of the territory to the latter. The refusal of the Arabs to accept this and the armed struggles that ensued negated the possibility of creating two states and inaugurated the long history of conflict and occupation that never stops. Also, the date of the proclamation of independence of the State of Israel – May 14, 1948 – is for the people of the Palestinian that of a catastrophe, the Nakba, which marks the beginning of a double exile, both outside and within their own country.

The last administrative division resulting from the Oslo accords of September 28 1995 assigned to the Palestinian territories 22 percent of the land, divided into three zones of more or less severe occupation, which resulted in a landscape of 'leopard skin' and the almost total administrative and economic paralysis that Palestine knows today. In the absence of permanent settlement of land and respect for the human rights of everyone in this region, the reality has not stopped for all these years to bring its attendant suffering and destruction.

Speaking of libraries in Palestine is not easy, as organizations and initiatives are made and un-made almost daily.

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### Information Sources

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The sources of information are scarce<sup>1</sup>, and concepts that seem most common to us need most often to be explained. The most comprehensive source is the study published in 1996 by the Ministry of Culture of the Palestinian Authority in Arabic, with support from the British Council. This study identifies the libraries, services offered, the qualifications of the personnel and the difficulties encountered. It offers recommendations for the development of public reading and libraries.

It enumerates total of 295 non-academic libraries, of which 119 are public libraries, with only 25 youth sections, 44 university libraries and 117 specialized or private libraries. Very few meet international standards, most often suffering from lack of dedicated buildings, equipment, professional skills, and especially funding.

It should also be noted that many libraries identified as public libraries are in fact private faith or family libraries: there is therefore a real void in the area of public reading.

In August 2000, at the 66th IFLA Council and General Conference held in Jerusalem, a Norwegian librarian, Erling Bergan presented a paper on 'Libraries in the West Bank and Gaza: Obstacles and possibilities' (<http://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/170-172e.htm>) which incorporates the results of the study of 1996, enriched by visits he had been able to make. It provides an updated description of the main public libraries: Nablus (70,000 volumes, 27 staff), Ramallah (40,000 volumes, 5 staff) and El Bireh (15,000 volumes, 6 staff). It also mentions the public libraries of Tulkarm, Jenin, Hebron and Jericho in the West Bank, of Gaza City and Rafah in the Gaza Strip, and notes that there is no public library in Bethlehem. In East Jerusalem, he cites the library of the Al Ansari family (40,000 volumes), open to the public, and that of Orient House, which, with its historical collections, was functioning virtually as a national library.

Erling Bergan also identified libraries of Bir Zeit University in Ramallah (110,000 volumes,

26 staff), An-Najah University in Nablus (130,000 volumes, 22 staff), Bethlehem University (100,000 volumes, university founded in 1973 by Pope Paul VI, open to all, both Christians and Muslims) and those of various campuses of Al Quds University around Jerusalem (75,000 volumes, 26 staff), the universities in Gaza and Hebron, as well as Al Quds Open University centres, free and unsupported by a religious institution or by the state, including one in Bethlehem. He finally states that school libraries, few in number in the public sector, are more prevalent in the private sector and in the 640 schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency United Nations for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the UN agency responsible for the education of children in refugee camps and refugee population zones.

It is difficult to identify the special libraries, mostly very small religious or thematic units – on the condition of women, human rights, the environment, the problem of refugees, etc. – most often associative, supported by foreign NGOs. It is also difficult to enumerate all the libraries which preserve heritage, mostly collections of manuscripts in varying quantities, among which we may note the library of the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem that houses beautiful Arabic manuscripts.

In 1994, the Palestinian Library Association saw the light of day, but, being subject to restrictions on assembly and movement imposed by the occupying power, it is difficult for it to play a major role in the development of libraries. Also, due to lack of professional training locally, most Palestinian librarians have had to train abroad, resulting in a mismatch between training and practice.

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### The Present

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Following the 1996 report, and because of the difficulties in establishing a proper network of public libraries, the Ministry of Culture of the Palestinian Authority decided to concentrate its efforts on youth reading with a program that focuses on the creation and development of 60 libraries for youth, assisted for 3 years by Switzerland and Sweden. This plan included the construction and equipping of libraries, an allocation of 1,000 books and educational games, and training of two teachers per site in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Begun in 1998, the program was funded until 2001. It was continued until 2003 with the creation of 12 new schools. But today, the libraries are mostly closed for lack of paid staff and renewal of funds, and there only remain the 'animation credits' administered in each governorate by the representative of the Minister.

A few years later, official sources of information on libraries are always very difficult to collect, and through visits and meetings, we can see both progress and spectacular setbacks.

A seminar organized by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights in Ramallah and IFLA in March 2008 helped to update some information. This three-day conference, which brought together 200 participants on the theme 'Libraries and Human Rights' gave many Palestinian librarians the chance to speak out. They largely described the situation of Palestinian libraries under the most recent conflicts and the pressures that the occupation of their territory continues to have on their institutions: the destruction, despoliation, difficulties in establishing and maintaining services in an unstable public space and in creating regulations such as a law on libraries or on copyright and intellectual property.

During the seminar we talked about prison libraries (11,000 Palestinians are currently detained in Israel), libraries for blind (blindness is the second disability in Palestine), public libraries and the special situation of libraries and Arab cultural institutions in Jerusalem, mostly closed because of the many prohibitions on modifying or renovating buildings, the partial or total confiscation of their funds, censorship of publications and on imports of materials – particularly journals – the lack of resources and of professional staff. The Orient House and its important library had been forced to close in 2002.

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### Cooperation

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It is most often through cooperation agreements with foreign institutions or organizations that libraries in Palestine can attain a certain level of development.

Given the impossibility of making an exhaustive list, and in order to stay within the framework of French cooperation, we include, for public libraries,

the decentralized cooperation partnerships between the Councils of Seine Saint-Denis and Val-de-Marne and the public libraries of Qhalqiliya, Tulkarm and Jenin, and between the Urban Community of Dunkirk and the municipal library of Gaza City; between Genevilliers and the municipal library of Al Bireh; between the city of Nantes and the municipal library of Jericho; the cooperation project between the city of Bouguenais and Anabia; the partnership between the General Council of Bouches-du-Rhône with the Governorate of Bethlehem, etc. There is also the library of the Qattan Foundation for Youth in Gaza City, a beautiful public library comparable to the most recent establishments in the West, which seems to have been spared by the recent destruction. Opened in 2004, it offers more than 80,000 documents, multimedia spaces, spaces for educational games, and a centre for information and documentation on youth. It benefits from competent staff and regular means of functioning, fully funded by the Qattan Foundation headquartered in London.

Regarding the university libraries we may include, among others, cooperation between Paris-VIII and the Faculty of Law of Bir Zeit University; between the University of Cergy-Pontoise and that of the Rafah; and between the University of Toulouse and Al Quds Open University.

We may also include the libraries, of varying importance, of foreign cultural centres: those of the British Council (Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Gaza City and Khan Yunis); of French cultural centres (Jerusalem, Nablus, Gaza and Ramallah – the Centre in Ramallah is a Franco-German centre, jointly with the Goethe Institute), which have between 4000 and 5000 documents and are at the heart of a very rich offer of cultural activities.

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### The Public Reading Project of Bethlehem

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On June 9 2005 a framework agreement was signed for cooperation between the President of the General Council of Bouches-du-Rhône and the Governor of Bethlehem. It indicates that in the field of culture, priority will be given to the book sector and public reading, specified in an addendum entitled 'Cooperation in the cultural sector: partnership in the field of public



Figure 1. COBIAC on the way to Jerusalem.

reading'. The General Council then supported the proposal of COBIAC (Collective of Librarians and Cultural Workers), who had made an inventory of needs during a field mission the same year, and provided for much of the funding. The project foresees:

- The development of a public library in the Salah al-Din community centre of the town of Dar Salah. It includes the development of furniture, multimedia equipment, acquisition of materials and professional training of staff. A special effort is planned for the youth.
- Development under the same conditions of a public library located in the city of Doha.
- The acquisition of documents for the benefit of the library of Al Quds Open University.

The premises and operating costs are borne by the municipalities concerned; the governorate provides logistical support and project monitoring. The agreement also sets out the principles of library operations, with reference to the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994), which must be

respected. The stated goals are the development of public reading in the area of the Governorate of Bethlehem, in a long-term perspective, as a factor in the transmission of cultural heritage, of increasing knowledge, developing citizenship, of opening to the world, and addressed to all without hindrance or discrimination. As well as the establishment of local professional networks for sharing resources and the creation of linkages with international professional and intercultural networks.

The project was begun in 2006: work and improvements have been made in the two libraries of Dar Salah and Doha, three sessions of professional training have been held and 2000 documents in Arabic acquired in each library, of which, initially, 70 percent are books for youth.

At the request of the governor of Bethlehem, a first extension of the project was completed with the purchase of books and furniture for the kindergarten in the village of Za'ttara. In January 2007, the inauguration and opening to



Figure 2. Qattan Foundation Centre for the Child. Exterior.



Figure 3. Qattan Foundation Centre for the Child. Interior.



Figure 4. Kindergarten, Za'ttara.

the public of the libraries of Dar Salah and Doha took place, and in October, the second extension of the municipal library program in Beit Jala, at the request of the mayor. The library, rich with 40,000 volumes, was created after the removal of the papal library in East Jerusalem. The collection is rich but partially obsolete. Without renewal of collections or professional management for several years, the library needs to be modernized. A fourth professional training session focuses on collections for youth.

In December, a first progress report made it possible to measure the positive results as well as the obstacles encountered:

- Organization of knowledge sharing and of access to information for all is a concept that still seems very new and that needs to be shared.
- Difficulties of movement of persons are a serious obstacle to exchanges and travel, especially to bookstores.
- Institutional fragmentation and lack of knowledge of local resources are realities to be

overcome, just as appears difficult to establish partnerships between the institutional world and the associations, and between political and civil society.

The establishment of a monitoring committee and the expansion of relations between libraries for future networking are thus envisaged. A directory of libraries is being prepared.

The French consulate offers to organize French courses for librarians at the Alliance Française of Bethlehem: 200 hours of courses were scheduled for 7 persons in 2008 – which will in fact continue in 2009 because of the obstacles encountered – with the objective of promoting professional exchanges and building partnerships with libraries in the cities of the Bouches-du-Rhône – Gardanne, Martigues, eventually Aubagne and Vitrolles and the departmental library of Bouches-du-Rhône.

The program continued in 2008 with a fifth session of professional training on youth animation and further acquisitions; the collections of libraries



Figure 5. Training session.

of Doha and Dar Salah grew to over 3000 volumes and 7 multimedia posts were installed in the library of Dar Salah. A new extension of the program introduces the municipal library of Battir – a village almost entirely enclosed by Israeli territory – with the library in the town hall and already equipped, thanks to donations from volunteers.

A proposed extension to the village of Husan, where a librarian is trying to follow the training, is worth mentioning, the Mayor offering to make space available. The first books purchased are placed in the kindergarten.

For 2009, it is expected to continue the program of equipment of libraries, the development of collections and skills, and the extension of the project to the most remote villages such as Wadi Nees, a village in the South.

But back to the census of existing libraries, from visits that we were able to make: three university

libraries, including Bethlehem University, Al Quds Open – being installed in its new premises – and the new private university Falastin El Ahleyyah; five public libraries – Dar Salah, Doha, Beit Jala, Battir, and the Pontifical Mission in Bethlehem; the association libraries of the Ghirass Centre for Youth, of Alrowwad, of the Phoenix Foundation, and a number of school libraries and children's centres, such as the kindergarten of Za'ttara, the library of the Alliance Française at the Peace Centre, etc.

In future the establishment of a more ambitious project for the establishment of a joint library service in the Governorate of Bethlehem and the networking of all existing libraries seems the inevitable step to sustaining a true system of reading and information which should serve as a model to extend to other governorates.

Indeed, if the attempted census conducted at our request by the governorate in December 2007 did not correspond to our expectations because, like



Figure 6. Librarians at work, Beit Jala.



Figure 7. Festival, preparation of the session.

the 1996 study, it noted many private libraries but did not mention active libraries most often managed by NGOs that we visited ourselves, it became clear that progress towards a genuine offer of public reading will pass from now on through a pooling of existing provision and the establishment of a cooperative structure. Obtaining partnerships with the Ministry of Culture of the Palestinian Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mission to support the international NGOs, IFLA, the Palestinian Library Association, and eventually with other NGOs, will be crucial.

### The Program on Storytelling

In 2007, the COBIAC answered a call for proposals from the Delegation of the European Commission in Jerusalem, which accepted the project 'The role of libraries in the transmission of oral heritage'. This was to be conducted between January and October 2008 in partnership with the Alrowwad Cultural and Theatre Training Centre, located in Aida camp in Bethlehem.



Figure 8. Storytelling festival, kindergarten.

It had four components:

1. A seminar on the theme 'The story, a legacy for tomorrow – the role of libraries', held at Bethlehem University on April 5 with the participation of three French animators (Praline Gay-Para, Muriel Bloch and Liliane Rebillard), while a representative of 'The Small Reader' association in Oran, a project partner, could not make the journey.
2. Two workshops devoted to the collection of stories (animated by Praline Gay-Para) and storytelling (animated by Muriel Bloch).
3. A collection campaign held from May to August, with five teams of two persons under the responsibility of a young academic, Moayyed Al Adj, assistant to Professor Sharif Kanaana, University of Bir Zeit; a collection which will be included in a compendium to be published by the Tamer Institute for Ramallah in May 2009.
4. A festival of storytelling held between August 13 and October 16 with 17 storytelling sessions in 14 different locations; the closing session, held in the camp of Aida at the foot of the wall of separation, brought together about 600 people.

On completion of this project and despite the great difficulties encountered in its implementation, we note with some satisfaction that we could combine energies at the local and international levels, that we could create or reinforce the vocations of storytellers, the results of the training workshops, and provide librarians as well as facilitators and teachers with both the practices of, and partners in, animation.

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### A Review

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We must now attempt, after a clear observation of the difficulties – which risk, because of the current context, to enter in the short-term into a phase of aggravation – to express the hopes and expectations raised by these three years of partnership with the Governorate of Bethlehem for the development of reading and libraries.

The difficulties are primarily related to deprivation of liberty of movement and activity of the peoples involved – a total and absolute deprivation in the case of the inhabitants of the

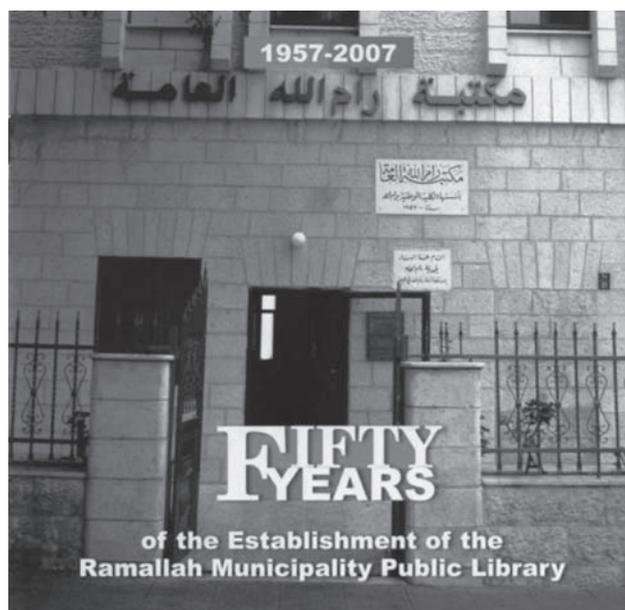


Figure 9. Fifty years of the Ramallah Public Library.



Figure 10. Ghassan Ziadeh at the ABF Congress.

Gaza Strip. Unemployment, business closures due to the closure of outlets or the confiscation of land, production tools or natural resources like water, delays in paying salaries, shortages and privations of all sorts, fear of incessant incursions and everywhere the Israeli army can make a library development project totally

derisory. But the thirst for knowledge, thirst for communication and openness, the excellent level of primary and secondary education, the number of students in universities, excellent command of ICT development make this a necessary and indispensable tool for the attainment of independence and development.

Other more sensitive difficulties to be understood are inherent in the chaotic history of Palestinian society, a history which strengthens the weight of traditional structures, political divisions, and does not promote either the habits and development of exchange structures or partnership. To which may be added to the multitude of external influences exerted by NGOs and bilateral cooperation agreements with foreign states or regional organizations from whom, rightly, each beneficiary seeks to maintain the benefits, and which are a priori bearers of cohesion and coordination. These agreements or programs are not always assured of monitoring and only rarely present proposals for long term projects. Not to mention the particular phenomenon of the refugee camps where 32 percent of the population live, and their management by the UN agencies, which must be taken into account in any effort at sharing and centralization of services.

Hopes and difficulties must, however, reinforce our commitment to partnership. And because librarians are professionals in the exchange and dissemination of knowledge, is it not in the most difficult and painful contexts that the solidarity of the international library community must be exercised?

### Acknowledgment

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**The Palestinian Territories**

Term (pending the creation of a Palestinian state): Palestinian Territories.

Area: West Bank: 5842 sq km, Gaza Strip: 365 sq km.

Palestinian population: 3.8 million (West Bank and East Jerusalem: 2.4 million, Gaza Strip: 1.4 million).

Jewish settler population: 470,000 inhabitants, of which 190,000 in Jerusalem.

Population growth: 3 percent.

Capital: East Jerusalem (claimed for the future Palestinian state).

Major cities: East Jerusalem (180,000 inhabitants), Jericho (64,000 inhabitants), Gaza City (57,000 inhabitants), Nablus (52,000 inhabitants), Tulkarm (47,000 inhabitants), Ramallah (40,000 inhabitants), Jenin (35,000 inhabitants), Hebron (17,000 inhabitants).

Official language: Arabic.

Head of State (President of the Palestinian Authority): Mahmoud Abbas, Abu Mazen.

Currency: Shekel.

GDP: US\$ 6 million. GDP per capita US\$ 1552

**Bethlehem Governorate**

Area: 608 sq km (zone A: 7,8 percent; Zone B: 5.5 percent, or 47.64 sq km; zone C: 69.7 percent).

Large municipalities: Bethlehem, Beit Jalla, Beit Sahour (about 15,000 inhabitants).

Medium-sized municipalities: 66 villages, 3 refugee camps (Deheisheh, Aida and Beit Jibrin, about 20,000 inhabitants), 20 Israeli settlements.

**The Administrative Division**

The Oslo Interim Agreements (December 1995) divided the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into three administrative areas:

Zone A: full sovereignty of the Palestinian Authority.

3 percent of the West Bank, 8 major cities: Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Jericho, Tulkarm, Qualqilya, Bethlehem and Hebron – except the part occupied by the old city – and 60 percent of the Gaza Strip.

Zone B: civil administration of the Palestinian Authority but control of the territory reserved for the Israeli army.

27 percent of the West Bank rural areas.

Zone C: has become areas of settlement and expansion of roads reserved for Israelis.

70 percent of the West Bank and 40 percent of Gaza settlements of low density suburbs of cities and towns, industrial areas.

NB: the eastern part of the city of Jerusalem, which had not been the object of any agreement, passed under Israeli municipal management in 1980. Since then, the multiplication of various prohibitions, deprivations of utilities, construction of reserved routes, and pre-emptive acts of expropriation have made the Palestinian population largely a minority.

### **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).**

This United Nations programme, created after the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948 and renewed since then, has been designed to aid Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Its purpose is to meet the basic needs of Palestinian refugees in health, education, humanitarian assistance and social services: Palestinian refugees are the only refugees in the world who do not depend upon the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

UNRWA provides services in 59 camps. It is by far the largest UN agency with a staff of over 25,000 people, of whom 99 percent are Palestinian refugees recruited locally, working as teachers, doctors or social workers.

According to the UNRWA definition, a 'Palestinian refugee' is a person whose usual place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948 and who lost both his home and his means of livelihood because of the Israeli-Arab conflict of 1948. The definition of UNRWA refugee also covers the descendants of Palestinians who became refugees in 1948. Consequently, the number of registered Palestinian refugees has grown from 914,000 in 1950 to over 4.4 million in 2005 and continues to grow because of natural increase of the population. This extremely broad definition of refugee, which can include the descendants, is used only in relation to the Palestinians.

### **The Qattan Foundation**

Founded in 1994 in London by Abdel Mohsen Qattan and his wife, from Jaffa, the foundation aims to support cultural, educational and scientific development as well as the cultural heritage of the Arab people in general and the Palestinian people in particular. It assists individuals as well as associations and institutions.

With an annual budget of US\$ 2.2 million, it is the reference institution in the Arab world for culture and education.

The Qattan Centre for the Child in Gaza was opened in 2004.

[www.qattanfondation.org](http://www.qattanfondation.org)

A small budget for acquiring books for youth is available from the library of the Ghirass Centre, a particularly active NGO situated in the heart of Bethlehem which pursues sociocultural and socio-educational activities for youth with international assistance. A local correspondent has been appointed to monitor libraries and in particular to ensure a monthly visit by librarians to a bookshop in Ramallah to choose books and educational games. Sessions in cataloguing and equipment held in common in the library of Beit Jalla help to set the rules of the book circuit.

The acquisition process remains difficult: there is no bookshop in Bethlehem. After an attempt to place orders with two bookstores in East Jerusalem, where librarians cannot travel, then with a bookshop in Hebron, acquisitions are now moving, with a monthly visit by librarians, accompanied by our local correspondent, to the bookstore Al-Shorouk in Ramallah, which, despite the difficulties of supply via Jordan, offers a good selection of documents.

### **The Tamer Institute**

Created in 1989 after the first intifada, to promote the right to education and access to knowledge, the right of free expression, the promotion of reading and writing among the young, developing children's literature and supporting creativity and local initiatives, it is located in Ramallah with a branch in Gaza.

The Tamer Institute – a dozen people and about 40 field staff – has developed an important resource centre (with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) used by the entire educational and cultural community, as well as a children's library, which are central to many activities related to youth reading. Its publishing house, founded in 1993, works with a reading committee and has published over 130 works.

It has received several international awards, most recently at the Bologna Fair.

[www.tamerinst.org](http://www.tamerinst.org)

### **A Librarian in Ramallah**

*Ghassan Ziadeh, (see photo, p. [331]) invited to the 55th Congress of the Association des Bibliothécaires de France, kindly enlightened us on the main challenges he is facing in directing the Library of Ramallah.*

If there are no real maintenance problems, we now have a problem of space for new books. We're very cramped. The building was designed for the library, that is important: it is not a reused building. The municipality has acquired the space next door for an extension, but did not have the means to build. It also tried to construct a totally new building for a library and national archives. Contracts with European countries were awarded for this; the space is there, but it cannot finance the construction.

One difficulty is that the 6000 users – students or undergraduate students for the most part – do not come from Ramallah itself but nearby, and when they come to borrow or return books, they must pass checkpoints. But they still try to return them, even if they are very often late. Agreements have been concluded between the library and the university: when leaving the university, a student cannot obtain his diploma or his papers until he has returned all books borrowed.

Furthermore, we must replace old computers and we do not have the means. There is only one workstation for users, but I hope I can get a computer room so that users can do Internet searches and search the library catalogue that is now available in electronic form.

Regarding acquisitions, normally I buy mainly on the local market, but sometimes I also go to book fairs, for example in Cairo, but it is very expensive, and for US\$ 7000 to buy books in Cairo I had to pay US\$ 13,000 more to import them to Palestine. It is absolutely necessary to free books from these customs charges.

The other problem is that we have few librarians: there are only 5 of the 9 we had previously. This workforce reduction resulted in a reduction in the opening hours: 7.00 am to 20.00 pm before and now only from 9.00 am to 16.00 pm. We try to resolve this situation through cooperation with foundations – the Arab Bank, the Qattan or the Schuman Foundation in Amman, for example – so that each of them finances a librarian to reopen until 20.00 pm. We also have some volunteers because, normally, each student who finishes the university must provide 120 hours, and some come to give 50 hours to the library.

*Interview by Philippe Leveaud.*

*Thank you to Manar Badr, his interpreter.*

# Green Gift Plan: building small libraries in public places of Mazandaran Province, Iran

*Hossein Noorani*



## Abstract

Considering the low rate of reading of books in Iran and the disregard for reading skills in daily life, innovative plans and programs aimed at bringing books to the public introduce citizens to books as major information carriers and establish the reading habit as a necessity for today's life. The Green Gift Plan (GGP), focusing on building small libraries in some public areas and work places (i.e. barbers' shops, dentists' or doctors' offices, women's beauty salons) in Mazandaran Province, Iran, aimed at improving reading among the people by bringing books into society. It also put emphasis on librarians' social responsibilities. The paper describes the settings, objectives and implementation of this plan and makes proposals for the continuation of the plan and the implementation of other similar plans.

**Keywords:** Green Gift Plan; public libraries; books; reading; Mazandaran Province; Iran

*Heidar Mokhtari*



## Introduction

More than ever, the book, as a cultural product and familiar information carrier, needs programs and plans that lead it to present and play its important role in today's knowledge society and heighten public awareness of its values and benefits in their individual and social lives. Librarians, as social workers and in order to perform the duties of social librarianship, have the main responsibilities in designing and implementing such plans and programs. These are manifestations and presentations of the role of librarians in our modern and complex society, where information and knowledge increasingly play a main and basic role in peoples' relationships. Such social work in our field can also defend the librarianship profession against other threatening surrogates and put emphasis on librarians' vital role in modern society.

Book reading is considered as one of the most important indicators of cultural development, especially in developing countries. There are contradictory statistics on the reading rate of Iranians (Poor-Skandary 2007). But in spite of cultural administrators' efforts to establish the reading habit in society and their different plans for encouraging reading skills, the book reading rate is still considerably low, on the whole, because of various economic, social, political and cultural conditions and limitations. The domination of oral culture over the written one, the unimportance of knowledge in social life and relations, disregard for book reading in families and schools, inaccessibility of library services, lack of books and published media in public areas and so on are other factors that negatively affect book reading and the reading habit in Iran. Besides, access to public libraries is hard because of the lack of libraries, even in big cities, the remoteness of public libraries and other centers related to book and book reading, the high cost of referring to libraries, the low incomes

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of people and other factors that negatively affect the reading rate and decrease the use of libraries for reading and satisfying information needs. All these factors can be seen as barriers to Zipf's "least effort principle and must be reduced by accessible means and possible innovative plans.

For example, in Mazandaran Province where the Green Gift Plan was set, only 58 public libraries are located, whereas there are 34 cities, eighteen towns and many villages in this province. It is obvious that some towns and most villages have no public library or similar centre for reading or acquiring needed information.

Several effective step-by-step plans and programs are necessary to challenge these various factors, bring books and reading into personal life and develop the reading habit as a familiar and tangible feature of everyone's personal and social life, spread written culture among the citizens, encourage reading skills in public areas, and emphasize the power of knowledge and the role of information in successful life. It is the duty of librarians to perform these social tasks.

Considering these points, the Green Gift Plan was developed to build small libraries in some public areas with certain capacities and conditions and develop it into other public areas in the future. The program was called 'Green Gift Plan' because 'Green Gift' is the symbol of enjoyment and new life in Persian culture. Mazandaran Province was considered as the place for the implementation of the Green Gift Plan because the authors live in its central city and have some experience of and views on its multi-dimensional conditions. The authors' expertise in library and information science and their cultural and domestic information background helped them in the operationalization of the plan. The Green Gift Plan results were supposed to be directive in broadening the plan and developing other similar plans in various public places of this province and other provinces in the future.<sup>1</sup>

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### **The Green Gift Plan: Settings and Objectives**

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The Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry of Iran is located in Tehran (the capital) and has a major department in the central city of every province and branch offices in some other cities. The main goals of this ministry include: setting strategies for

publishing printed and electronic material in the country; supervising and monitoring publication trends and the quality of publications; and the free dissemination of published material, especially printed books, among cultural offices, institutions, educational centers and official public areas. Considering this last goal, published books and other information material on various subjects are selected subjectively and usually bought collectively from Tehran, by the Cultural Deputy of the Ministry using a specially assigned budget at regular intervals. These books are stored in a big central depository and then divided according to the literate population of each province and sent to the major departments of all provinces. These departments store their books and materials in their own small depositories and distribute them among applicant centers according to their stated needs, users and missions. The book distribution process is usually done irregularly and without any strategic plan, rational information needs assessment or accurate investigation and evaluation. Such an inaccurate and subjective process decreases the use of these books and results in the removal of assigned resources.

Taking into account the potential of the free distribution of books by the Ministry and its provincial departments, the Green Gift Plan was implemented in Mazandaran Province during 6 months from August 2008 to February 2009. If possible, the Green Gift Plan is going to continue and expand in the future. It was expected that the Green Gift Plan would be oriented towards a relatively rational and study-based book donating process and result in the optimal use of this method of bringing books to the public. Using the facilities of Mazandaran Province Department of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry ('the Department' in brief) especially for the optimization of book donating as one of its organizational goals to encourage the reading habit and the establishment of reading skills, the Green Gift Plan was implemented in all nineteen main cities of the province.

The plan was carried out in doctors' and dentists' offices, barbers' shops and women's beauty salons as samples of the public places where small libraries could be established. The clientele of these locations need to visit them (and similar places) more or less regularly. We can improve the reading habit and arrange book reading in these places by making available small libraries with books and other information material on various

interesting subjects. It was decided continue the Green Gift Plan in other public places, such as terminals, hotel lobbies, governmental health care centers, etc. in the future, if it is successful and well protected by the Department.

The main objectives of the Green Gift Plan were:

- a) to bring the book as a cultural product into social areas and among the public, and introduce it to them
- b) to fill the leisure and waiting times of clientele who visit some public places and wait for their services
- c) to establish the book reading habit as a necessity for today's life and a skill for our knowledge age among citizens
- d) to encourage citizens in building small libraries in society, especially in their work places, and to publicize them
- e) to optimize the book donating process performed regularly by the Department
- f) to socialize libraries and introduce librarianship as a social work and librarians as social workers.

The public places selected for the implementation of the Green Gift Plan (barbers' shops, beauty salons and doctors' and dentists' offices/) had to have the following conditions for appropriate book reading:

- a) a roofed waiting room
- b) waiting time of their clientele for using the services provided.

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### The Implications of Green Gift Plan

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There have been some other innovative plans aimed at entering books into society and establishing the book reading habit in everyday life. These plans were implemented in various places autonomously by individuals or government or non-government offices. These include, among others: using motorcycle couriers for lending books to busy library members ('Motorcycle Book Couriers in Shoosh City' 2008); bringing books for the physically handicapped ('Book Carrying for the Disabled in Mashhad City' 2008); forgiving overdue fines of certain library members to encourage them to continue using the public library; and building a small library in a bakery ('Qoum City Bakery Library' 2007). However, as far as the selected places and the conditions they

had to have were concerned, the Green Gift Plan was established for the first time in Iran and had some differences from the above-mentioned and similar plans, namely: the necessity for having a roofed space, waiting room and appropriate chairs, together with other conditions such as enough light, relative silence and suitable temperature, all providing the clientele with a desirable environment for book reading and enjoying their waiting times. The Green Gift Plan was also supported by an official government department with relatively sufficient means for the implementation of such plans and rational reasons for supporting and the future expansion of the Green Gift Plan.

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### The Implementation of Green Gift Plan

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The Green Gift Plan was innovated by the respondent author, Hossein Noorani, who works as a librarian and domestic culture expert in the Department. Consulting with several experts in related fields about this innovation, and in justification of its benefits and effectiveness, the plan came into operation under the protection of the Department and the supervision of the respondent author. The Green Gift Plan Team was established with the participation of several experts and practitioners and related administrators of the Department and some specialists in library and information science, psychology, public culture and other related fields. Green Gift Plan Team meetings were being held regularly in order to operationalize the plan, select appropriate information resources for donating, monitoring the plan's progress and development, and making decisions on its evaluation and possible generalization.

Considering the available facilities, human resources, assigned budget, main easily accessible public places, the variety of their clientele and so on, the Green Gift Plan Team decided to select doctors' and dentists' offices, barbers' shops and women's beauty salons for the first stage of implementation of the Green Gift Plan and announce it to the owners of these target workplaces. The announcement introduced the plan, enumerated the target places and their conditions, described the plan's benefits and merits and so on. It contained the Department's full address and phone numbers to be referred to or contacted for responding to possible questions of applicants, and stated that the books would be given to selected applicants

and that they had to prepare at least a bookshelf themselves. Each applicant had to complete an application form included in the announcement and send it back to the Department for recording required information such as the owners' names and educational levels, their work place address, their phone numbers, surface area of waiting rooms (in square meters), etc. The announcement was published in local publications and media.

One staff member of the Department was assigned to respond to the questions of applicants and, if necessary, explain the details of the plan to them. Several days after the announcement was made, some applicants began to refer to the Department to acquire information on the Green Gift Plan. They were given information on the details of the plan, its benefits, importance, etc. and their agreement about participating in the plan.

A total of 345 applicants completed the application forms and sent them back. Using the information provided in the completed forms, a database was designed according to type of work place, their locations (in the 19 main cities of the province) and other needed information. Through coordination with branch offices of the Department, direct observations of applicants' work places were made and some observation and evaluation forms were completed simultaneously. Eventually, 121 (35 percent) applications were accepted for implementation of the Green Gift Plan. Excluded applicants did not meet some of the conditions and requirements needed for the Green Gift Plan, such as official license, appropriate waiting room, suitable bookshelf preparation, etc. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the selected work places by occupation type. Doctors' and dentists' offices together had the highest rank in the implementation of the Green Gift Plan, with 57 locations (47.2 percent).

Fifty-six of the selected work places (46.3 percent) were located in Sary (the central city of Mazandaran Province) and the remainder in the other eighteen main cities of the province.

After the selection of suitable work places, the Green Gift Plan Team started to select appropriate books to be given to the applicants. These books were on various subjects according to the work places' situations and the circumstances and interests of their clientele and ranged from general subjects to public culture, psychology,

medicine, health care, sports, religion, etc. The selected resources were then divided and given to the applicants in inauguration ceremonies (Figures 2 and 3). These ceremonies were well reported in local publications and the mass media, especially in the morning and evening Mazandaran province news.

Each applicant received 100 selected book titles for starting his or her small library operation. A special monthly survey form was designed and given to the applicants for monitoring their small libraries and also communicating with the Department. Up to 12,150 titles were given to the selected applicants in the early stages. Some applicants themselves provided other books for their libraries and promised to expand their collections with other appropriate titles. Some applicants, especially doctors and dentists, stated that book reading helped them indirectly by informing their clientele and providing them with good information, especially on their health care and treatment.

The continuation of donating other books and publications to these applicants and expanding these small collections in the future requires them to send back the completed evaluation forms to the Department every month and to preserve their libraries' resources. If necessary, other observations will be carried out on these small libraries for monitoring their performance and progress and evaluating their users' views on their benefits and usage.

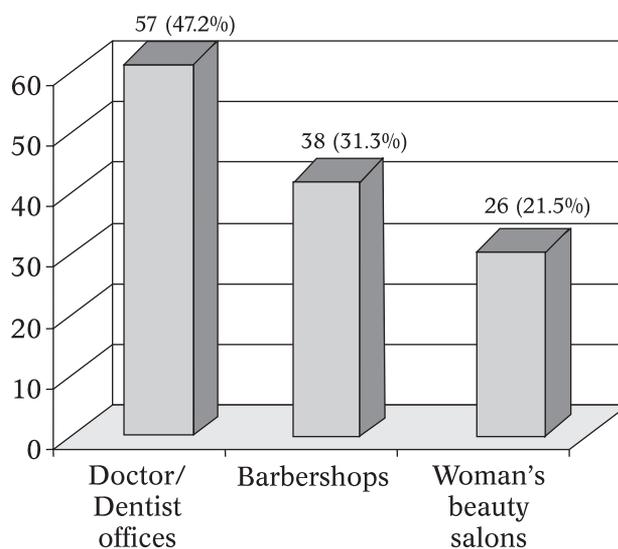


Figure 1. Frequency distribution of the selected public work places for the Green Gift Plan, by their occupation type.



Figure 2. Inauguration of a small library in a barber's shop.



Figure 3. Inauguration of a small library in a doctor's office.

The Green Gift Plan was reflected well in local publications and public media. Some applicants were interviewed by a local TV news reporter and the report broadcasted. The Green Gift Plan will be continued and developed into other public areas, such as terminals, governmental health care centers and so on throughout the province and the country, if the current Green Gift Plan is successful and the facilities and budget needed for the continuation of the plan are available.

It is too soon to pronounce any certain opinion on the progress of the Green Gift Plan and its acceptance among the public. It is notable that our facilities were inappropriate for announcing the Green Gift Plan widely and the plan was completely new for applicants and making them accept it was really hard. However, its importance is increasingly known to the public and the number of applicants for the establishment of such

small and interesting libraries increases. We see this good and tangible reality several months after the implementation of the Green Gift Plan. It is obvious that the support and encouragement of centers such as the Department is a major factor in the creation and continuation of such plans.

### Final Remarks

In developing societies, such as Iran, dealing with cultural and developmental affairs and changing false or incorrect views of the people are very hard and complex tasks. In our society, the lack of attention to books and other information resources, and disregard for book reading as a necessary habit for today's social life, stem from various economical, cultural, social and educational factors. Introducing the public to the importance of books and reading in their personal and social relations needs innovative and rational plans and programs. Innovative plans such as the Green Gift Plan, operating the under protection of related organizations responsible for the cultural domain, can establish the reading habit among the public, bring books into society and encourage people to build small libraries in public places and areas. Such plans can help those responsible for encouraging reading skills and direct the related organizations to find the right way to make effective use of the resources and budgets assigned to books and reading. Besides, such plans can reflect the librarians' social responsibilities and their increasing role in the current knowledge society and represent manifestations of social librarianship anywhere. These are the main barriers against the variety of replacements that threaten our profession.

### Note

1. During implementation, the Green Gift Plan was officially registered as an innovative plan, in the name of Hossein Noorani in the Works Registration Unit of Islamic Republic of Iran National Library under No. V11110, on 31 May 2008.

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# *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000–2007):* a bibliometric study

**Bhaskar Mukherjee**



Dr. Bhaskar Mukherjee is currently employed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. A young science graduate and doctorate in the field of library and information science, Dr. Mukherjee has been serving this profession since 1996 in various capacities. He has had exposure to various theoretical and technical aspects of library and information science teaching as well as working experience in various types of libraries. He has published a number of research articles in various reputable journals in the field. He is recipient of the Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation award for contributing best article, the Prabhakar Rao Gold Medal Award for positioning First Class First in BSc, and the UTD Gold Medal Award for First Class First in BLiblSc and MLiblSc. His research interests are in webometrics, open access, information storage and retrieval, knowledge organization, etc. E-mail: mukherjee.bhaskar@gmail.com

## **Abstract**

The *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)* has been playing a vital role in the dissemination of scholarly articles in library and information science since 1950. This paper presents the results of a bibliometric study of articles published in the JASIST from 2000 to 2007. It examines the distribution of papers under various headings, including authorship pattern and nature of collaboration, geographic distribution of articles, nature of cited and citing references, prolific authors and highly cited authors. Data were collected using the Web of Science and analyzed using Microsoft Excel. Results indicate that during the sample period the rate of publication was uneven and the most prominent form of publication was articles. The trend of authorship pattern of articles is towards collaboration and authors from 47 countries contributed articles. The country-wise distribution reveals that the highest number of contributions was made by US authors followed by the UK. The number of references cited per article increased from 2000–2007 whereas articles received citations in decreasing numbers during the same period. The results suggest that articles need to have been published for more than 2 years before they receive adequate numbers of citations.

**Keywords:** bibliometrics; *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*; JASIST

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## **Introduction**

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Bibliometric analysis is a method to describe patterns of publication and national and international strengths and biases in areas of research within a given field or body of literature. Bibliometric studies have been applied mainly to scientific fields and are based principally on various metadata elements like author, title, subject, citations, etc. related to scholarly publication within a discipline. This type of analysis provides useful indicators of scientific productivity, trends, the emphasis of research in various facets and researchers' preferences for publication (Jacobs 2001). According to Huang et al. (2006), bibliometric data has been used to describe and evaluate countries, universities, research institutes, journals, specific research topics and specific disciplines.

Crane (1972) identified 5 aspects of bibliometric studies:

1. the relationship of characteristics of scholarly products to 'impact' in the field
2. the 'contribution' of individual authors or scientists
3. the seminal influence network of particular articles or ideas
4. the relative prestige or utility of various journals in a field
5. the productivity of particular institutions, academic departments or 'invisible colleges'.

Since journals are one of the most significant vehicles of scholarly communication in any discipline, bibliometric analysis of the contents of any scholarly journal portrays the scientific productivity, trends and emphases of research in a discipline and in the journal itself. Articles published in scholarly journals, including those in library and information science (LIS), reflect changes in the interests and concerns of their author constituencies and of the discipline in general (Koehler et al. 2000). There are many journals in the LIS disciplines. Among them, the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)* is one of the most important journals of LIS.

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### About JASIS(T)

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*JASIST* (ISSN: 1532-2882) is one of the most prestigious, fully refereed scholarly and technical journals in the field of LIS and Computer Science published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and is part of their Wiley InterScience series of peer-reviewed journals. *JASIST* first appeared as the *Journal of Documentary Reproduction*, an American Library Association publication, from 1938 until 1942 (Walker 1997), which had to cease publication during World War 2. *American Documentation (AD)* succeeded the *Journal of Documentary Reproduction* and was published from January 1950 to the end of 1969. From 1970 through 2000 it was published as *Journal of the American Society for Information Science (JASIS)* (ISSN:0002-8231). The name changed to the current name again at the end of 2000. From 1970 to 1996 it was a bi-monthly publication, from 1997–1998 it was monthly, and later a 14-month subscription publication in 1998. The editorial board consists of nearly 3 dozen members, primarily from the United States (<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/76501873/EditorialBoard.html>). Presently the *Journal* is edited by Donald H. Kraft. The journal is concerned with the generation, recording, distribution, storage, representation, retrieval, and dissemination of information, as well as its social impact and management of information agencies. There is a strong emphasis on new information technologies and methodologies in text analysis, computer based retrieval systems, measures of effectiveness, and the search for patterns and regularities in measures of existing communication systems. The orientation is toward quantitative experimental work, but significant qualitative and historical research is also addressed.

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### Related Research

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During the last few decades, many articles have addressed the bibliometric aspects of journals across many fields (Worthen 1978; Salton and Bergmark 1979; Tiew 1998, etc.) including LIS in general (Stephenson 1993; Smiraglia, and Leazer 1995; Walker 1997, Heydon et al. 2000, etc.), and *JASIS* in particular (Cronin, 1991; Harter, and Hooten 1992; Al-Ghamdi et al. 1998; Lipetz 1999; Smith 1999, etc.) *JASIS(T)* has a long history of continuous publication since 1950 through the present and is consistently recognized as among the most important and influential of information science journals (Kohl and Davis 1985; Stefaniak 1985; Rice 1990; Siddiqui 1997; Wormell 1998; Nisonger 1999). It is a highly regarded journal in the field of LIS, publishes mainly new research, and is known to receive a high number of citations (Bauer and Balkkalsbasi 2005). *JASIS* also published a considerable amount of research in the 11th issue of its 50th volume.

Koehler et al. (2000) examined frequency of publication, publication size, number of authors, gender and corporate authors by region, and the funding status of articles of 3 e-journals and one paper journal, namely *JASIS*. They found that *JASIS* was a more general purpose publication that attracted a significant pool of authors from the science-technology community. Articles published in *JASIS* and *Information Research* reported the results of funded research at a rate far greater than the other journals in their sample. In another study, Koehler (2001) explained the status of information science as science through an exploration of *JASIS* from its initial publication as *American Documentation* in 1950 through the closing issue of its Silver Anniversary year in December 1999. He and Spink (2002) analysed the distribution of foreign authors by geographic location from a 50-year publication period (1950–1999) to assess the overall trends in *JASIS* and *Journal of Documentation*. Uzun (2004) conducted a study of the patterns of foreign authorship of articles and the international composition of journal editorial boards in 5 leading journals in the field of information science and scientometrics. The study covers one American journal, namely *JASIST*, and 4 European journals. Sin (2006) also conducted a longitudinal study using 20 LIS journals, including *JASIST*, to assess the level of internationalization in their authorship patterns. Tsay (2008) explored the relationship between *JASIST* and other disciplines by citation analysis using citation

data drawn from references of each article in *JASIS(T)* in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2004. The results of this study revealed that the production rate of *JASIST* literature doubled and the average number of references cited per paper increased 2 to 3 times in a period of about 25 years. *JASIST* itself is the most highly cited, and is followed by 4 library and information science (LIS) journals, namely *Information Processing and Management*, *Journal of Documentation*, *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology* and *Journal of Information Science*.

To the best of my knowledge no bibliometric study has yet been conducted to analyze the several quantifiable characteristics of the content of *JASIST* during 2000–2007. In this bibliometric analysis, we examined 3 elements: articles, authors and citations. This journal was chosen as the single source journal for the bibliometric study because of its uniqueness.

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### Objectives

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The major objectives of the present study, covering the contents of *JASIST* from 2000 to 2007, are:

- to measure the publication culture
- to examine the authorship patterns and the nature of collaborative research
- to study the research output in terms of institutions type and the country of belonging of contributing authors
- to identify the prolific contributors, their authorship patterns and quantity of contributions
- to examine the research output in terms of length of papers, the number of citations given and received
- to identify highly cited authors and to calculate the quantity of citations received by authors under various authorships.

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### Methodology

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The data presented in this paper have been accessed from *Web of Science* published by Thomson Scientific. The basic data, relating to the bibliometric characteristics of *JASIST* from 2000 to 2007, were collected using the general search option of *Web of Science*. The searching was conducted during the first week of August 2009.

In the general search option, 2 pre-defined fields, viz. 'publication name' and 'year published' added

by logical operator "AND" have been chosen for gathering data. In the 'publication name' field, the full name of the journal, i.e. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* (for year 2000) and *Technology* (for years 2001–2007), has been used. In the 'year published' field, every single year has been employed instead of years in groups. For example, we typed '2000' in the field 'year published' to get data relevant to year 2000. Although ISI search permits, we did not employ '2000–2007' for getting all published items related to 2000–2007. We follow this process to get more accurate results.

In order to study the bibliometric characteristics of publications, all the searched results were first saved in text files and then imported into Microsoft Excel for analysis. An author was treated as having one contribution if that author's name appears once in the author section of the article, regardless of whether or not that author is the first author or co-author. If for any reason an author used different name forms for different articles, those articles were treated as written by one author under different names. Geographic locations of the authors were determined by the authors' addresses on *JASIST* articles at the time their works were published. For the purpose of present study, we have measured prolific authors who published more than 5 papers, to exclude from consideration researchers who published few papers. The total of citations received by an author at a given moment has been calculated by counting citations received by authors for their articles published under both solo and joint authorship. Each author of a joint paper was credited with having received an equal share of the total number of citations to that paper. For example, if a joint paper by 4 authors received a total of 20 citations, each of the 4 authors was credited with 20 citations, because it was difficult to ascertain the extent of each individual's contribution to the whole. Data were also compared with the related findings in the previous studies.

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### Results and Discussion

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#### Publication Culture in *JASIS(T)*

Table 1 shows the publication culture of 1345 items published in the journal for each year from 2000 to 2007.

As shown in Table 1, journal articles were found to be the most prominent form of communicating research results. Journal articles were

Type of item	Number of items published									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total	%
Articles	105	99	105	103	100	121	163	179	975	72.49
Book review	31	28	23	26	24	15	25	34	206	15.32
Correction	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	6	0.45
Editorial material	12	16	11	10	9	13	12	9	92	6.84
Letter	11	4	5	11	12	0	2	2	47	3.9
Review	1	2	1	0	3	3	0	7	17	1.26
Biographical item	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.15
Total	162	149	146	150	148	153	204	233	1345	100

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Table 1. *JASIST*, 2000–2007: numbers of items published (all types), by year.

the most numerous type of contribution (975 or 72.49 percent) followed by book reviews (206 or 15.32 percent). The biggest number of items (233) was published in 2007, followed by 2006 (204) and 2000 (162). It is interesting to observe that although the quantity of the issues remains unchanged during the sample period, there is an average increase of 9.57 items during the same period. Of these items, a marked increase in the number of articles has been observed, from 105 in 2000 to 179 in 2007, with some variations in the intervening years. The average annual rate of increase in articles published during this period was 10.14. The increase of the number of articles may be explained as an increase of interest among information scientists towards publishing articles in this reputed journal.

**Authorship Pattern**

Next, the authorship pattern was analyzed to determine the percentage of single and multiple authorship. It is clear from Table 1 that articles are the major constituent of *JASIST* items. Due to that we decided to continue our study on articles only, and ignore other kinds of contribution, which have little if any relevance to trends in LIS research.

As Harsanyi (1993) has shown, different disciplines interpret the order of authorship differently. According to Terry (1996), there are no established norms for citation order in librarianship and information science. As indicated in Table 2, our author sample consists of 2153 authors for 975 articles. These numbers differ because 628

(64.41 percent) of the articles were by 2 or more authors. The number of authors per article in this study ranges from one to 9.

Table 2 reveals that, during 2000–2007, the highest proportion of articles were by single authors (35.59 percent), followed by articles with 2 authors (33.64 percent), 3 authors (16.10 percent), and 4 or more authors (14.68 percent). This result is in consistent with the results of Koehler (2001) where he found that over the 50-year period, the single authored paper was most common (about 62 percent), followed by papers with 2 authors (about 26 percent), 3 authors (about 8 percent), and 4 or more (about 4 percent) in *JASIST*. On the other hand, it is interesting to observe that over the last 8-year period, there is a change of authorship pattern from single to multiple. The percentage of articles published in the *Journal* with a single author declined from 44.76 percent in 2000 to 34.08 percent in 2007. Koehler (2001) in his study mentioned that the percent of articles published in the *Journal* with a single author has declined from more than 80 percent in the 1950s to almost half in the 1990s. Lipetz (1999) also found that single-author papers were the most common type when *JASIS* was new, and remained so in 1995; however, the percentage of papers with one author declined from more than 71.4 percent in 1955 to 47.1 percent in 1995. This percentage in our study is even lower than that found in 1995.

A tabulation of the number of joint-author articles revealed an increase from 58 in 2000 to 118 in 2007, with some variation in 2006–2007.

Authorship pattern	Number of articles published ( <i>n</i> = 975)										% of articles	Total authors
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total			
Single	47	40	45	32	29	36	57	61	347	35.59	347	
2 authors	30	34	27	43	34	49	51	60	328	33.64	656	
3 authors	15	14	18	20	16	18	28	28	157	16.10	471	
4 authors	7	7	6	6	13	7	16	15	77	7.90	308	
5 authors	2	4	5	2	5	8	7	8	41	4.21	205	
6 authors	2	0	2	0	3	1	1	5	14	1.44	84	
7 authors	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	8	0.82	56	
8 authors	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.10	8	
9 authors	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.21	18	
Total articles	105	99	105	103	100	121	163	179	975	100.00		
Total authors	216	198	228	212	240	277	371	411			2153	
Average authors per article	2.06	2.00	2.17	2.06	2.40	2.29	2.28	2.30				
Single %	44.76	40.40	42.86	31.07	29.00	29.75	34.97	34.08				
Joint %	55.24	59.60	57.14	68.93	71.00	70.25	65.03	65.92				

Table 2. JASIST, 2000–2007: authorship pattern in published articles, by year.

This increase has also been represented in scientific publication trends, an area where Price (1968) and Beaver and Rosen (1977) reported a significant increase in joint authorship. In addition, an analysis of articles with multiple authors reveals that shared authorship between 2 authors is more likely than among 3 or more authors. Articles in *JASIST* 2000–2007 with 2 authors account for 33.64 percent, which is higher than the 32.40 percent found in 1995 in Lipetz’s (1999) study. Similarly, the percentage of articles with 3 or more authors is 30.78, which is an increase compared with the 20.6 percent recorded for 1995. Overall, the proportion of joint-authored articles increased by 10.68 percent during 2000 to 2007. Comparing the present study with the earlier study of Lipetz (1999), the average number of authors per article for *JASIS(T)* has increased from 1.91 in 1995 to 2.29 in 2007. Koehler et al. (2000) in their study mentioned that “multiple authorship is a sign of a mature discipline, publishing complex articles addressing complex issues”. So, as reflected in *JASIST*, it can be said that LIS researchers are increasingly handling complex issues. The number of papers with multiple authors has increased rapidly, demonstrating the continuing trend towards group research and development becoming the mainstream. In fact, collaborative research, as measured by number of authors, is generally associated with high quality output and high manuscript acceptance rates by prestigious journals (Oromaner 1975; Presser 1980).

**Nature of Collaborative Research**

With the advent of ICTs, one might expect a high degree of international collaboration in scholarly research. In order to determine whether this was the case, we examined the level of internationalization of co-authorship. For this purpose we analyzed the geographical affiliations of all contributing authors. As displayed in Table 3, of the total of 628 joint-author articles, the highest number, 267 (42.52 percent) are contributed by authors from the same institution, whereas 247 (39.33 percent) articles are contributed by authors from 2 or more different institutions in the same country. The number of articles by authors from more than one country is 114 (18.15 percent). One might expect that, because of the e-mail facility, it has become easier for authors to communicate with one another, no matter where they are located, and journals in particular have benefited from this development. In addition, inter-institutional and international joint authorship is growing rapidly, indicating the advancing trend towards the networkization and internationalization of research and development. He and Spink (2002) suggested that the growth of collaborative research and flow of information over the web has contributed to the increasing transnational nature of scholarly publishing. As reflected in *JASIST* though, this transnational scholarship in LIS is now in its infancy, and there is still room for research in the LIS field to be more internationalized.

Year	Number of articles ( <i>n</i> = 628)						
	Collaboration with authors from same institute, same country		Collaboration with authors from different institutions, same country		Collaboration with authors from different country		Total
2000	21	36.21	34	58.62	3	5.17	58
2001	29	49.15	22	37.29	8	13.56	59
2002	28	46.67	20	33.33	12	20.00	60
2003	27	38.03	37	52.11	7	9.86	71
2004	35	49.30	20	28.17	16	22.54	71
2005	39	45.88	35	41.18	11	12.94	85
2006	40	37.74	35	33.02	31	29.25	106
2007	48	40.68	44	37.29	26	22.03	118
Total	267	42.96	247	40.13	114	16.92	628

Table 3. *JASIST*, 2000–2007: articles published under joint authorship, by type of collaboration.

Attempts were made to verify the kinds of institution from which these authors contributed articles. The names of the institutions were obtained by studying the addresses available in the authors' affiliations. An approximation of the incidence of academia was obtained by verifying institutions with either 'University', 'College', or 'School' in their names. Non-academic institutions were identified as organizations, while commercial institutions were identified by verifying the top level domain of their web addresses. As indicated in Table 4, academic authors dominated with 81.13 percent of the total articles, followed by authors from various organizations (7.69 percent). Academic authors also jointly contribute articles with organizational and commercial authors. However, the proportion of such articles is only 6.05 percent and 1.54 percent respectively. Commercial authors without any collaboration with other types of institutions contributed only 2.87 percent of articles during 2000–2007. The prominent involvement of authors from academic institutions in publication may be due to the fact that acceptance by a recognized journal is seen in the academic world as evidence of scientific quality. University committees weigh the importance of such publications in evaluating the achievements of candidates for promotion or tenure.

**Geographic Distribution of Articles**

Examining the geographic distribution of contributing authors to *JASIST* led to some interesting

findings. Table 5 first grouped the countries into 6 continents and then arranged countries according to the frequency (further alphabetical) with which they were named in the address field for authors of *JASIST* articles. This table also ranks the 47 contributing countries according to the total research output during 2000–2007. The number of occurrences of country names (1096) was greater than the total number of articles (975) in the journal because of multiple-authored articles (as mentioned in Table 3) where authors from 2 or more countries jointly contributed one article.

As indicated in Table 5, although North-American authors contributed more articles (536) than European (310 articles) or Asian (174 articles) authors, the journal has wide global authorship. Authors from 23 European and 16 Asian countries contributed articles to *JASIST*. English-speaking countries, such as the United States (503 articles), the United Kingdom (98 articles), Canada (61 articles) and Australia (31 articles), are particularly dominant in *JASIST* publications for the past 8 years (2000–2007), although the People's Republic of China also contributed 51 articles and Spain 31.

Although the journal is originating from the USA, the quantity of articles by non-USA author is quite high. Overall, there are 506 articles (58.59 percent) by authors affiliated with institutions located in the United States (US) and 472 articles (48.41 percent) by authors affiliated with

Year	Number of articles							
	A	O	C	A+O	A+C	C+O	A+O+C	U
2000	79	6	4	12	1			2
2001	70	12	5	11				
2002	81	16	2	7		1		
2003	84	11	2	5		1	1	
2004	83	5	3	4	4			
2005	138	10	9	4	4			
2006	101	9	1	8	1			1
2007	155	6	2	8	5			1
Total	791	75	28	59	15	2	1	4
Percent	81.13	7.69	2.87	6.05	1.54	0.21	0.10	0.41

Table 4. *JASIST*, 2000–2007: articles published by authors' type of institution.

Key: A = Academic; O = Organization (non-academic); C = Commercial; U = Unknown.

Country	Number of articles								Total	Overall rank
	Individual contribution		Collaboration with same department of same country		Collaboration with different department of same country		Collaboration with authors from different countries			
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%		
North America (3/24)*										
USA	198	39.36	106	21.07	135	26.84	64	12.72	503	1
Canada	12	19.67	14	22.95	14	22.95	21	34.43	61	3
Mexico	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	40
Europe (23/42)*										
UK	27	27.55	27	27.55	13	13.27	31	31.63	98	2
Spain	2	6.45	8	25.81	15	48.39	6	19.35	31	5
Belgium	11	40.74	0	0.00	7	25.93	9	33.33	27	6
Netherlands	13	48.15	2	7.41	7	25.93	5	18.52	27	6
Finland	6	30.00	7	35.00	4	20.00	3	15.00	20	10
Italy	3	17.65	7	41.18	3	17.65	4	23.53	17	11
Germany	3	21.43	3	21.43	1	7.14	7	50.00	14	12
Denmark	4	36.36	5	45.45	0	0.00	2	18.18	11	14
Switzerland	2	18.18	1	9.09	2	18.18	6	54.55	11	14
Hungary	5	55.56	3	33.33	1	11.11	0	0.00	9	16
France	1	12.50	2	25.00	3	37.50	2	25.00	8	17
Sweden	3	42.86	0	0.00	1	14.29	3	42.86	7	18
Iceland	1	16.67	5	83.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	19
Ireland	4	66.67	0	0.00	1	16.67	1	16.67	6	19
Norway	2	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	66.67	6	19
Austria	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	100.00	3	22
Croatia	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	23
Greece	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	23
Bulgaria	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Poland	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Romania	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Slovakia	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Slovenia	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Asia (16/49)*										
People R China	4	7.84	15	29.41	11	21.57	21	41.18	51	4
Israel	9	34.62	12	46.15	2	7.69	3	11.54	26	7

(Table 5 Continued)

(Table 5 Continued)

Country	Number of articles								Total	Overall rank
	Individual contribution		Collaboration with same department of same country		Collaboration with different department of same country		Collaboration with authors from different countries			
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%		
Singapore	4	16.00	11	44.00	2	8.00	8	32.00	25	8
Taiwan	5	20.83	11	45.83	5	20.83	3	12.50	24	9
Japan	4	30.77	3	23.08	3	23.08	3	23.08	13	13
South Korea	3	30.00	2	20.00	1	10.00	4	40.00	10	15
Turkey	3	33.33	1	11.11	2	22.22	3	33.33	9	16
Iran	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	50.00	2	50.00	4	21
Jordan	2	50.00	2	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	21
Thailand	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100.00	0	0.00	2	23
India	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	24
Kuwait	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Macao	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	24
Malaysia	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Russia	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Saudi Arabia	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Oceania (2/12)*										
Australia	4	12.90	13	41.94	7	22.58	7	22.58	31	5
New Zealand	1	20.00	2	40.00	0	0.00	2	40.00	5	20
South America (2/12)*										
Brazil	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	40.00	3	60.00	5	20
Chile	0	0.00	2	40.00	1	20.00	2	40.00	5	20
Africa (1/48)*										
Nigeria	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	24
Total	347		267		247		235		1096**	

Table 5. *JASIST, 2000–2007: authorship pattern in published articles, by region and country.*

Note: \*(Contributing country to *JASIST*/Total countries in region); \*\* the number differs because of multi-authored articles contributed by authors from more than 2 nations.

institutions located outside of the United States. The overall percentage of non-US authorship is higher than the small 9 percent determined by Buttlar (1991). The increasing international participation in *JASIST* agreed with the findings of Herubel (1991), who analyzed 23 years of authorship in library history.

On the other hand, it is clear in Table 5 that US authors tended to accomplish their studies either individually (39.36 percent) or collaborated with other colleagues of their own country (47.91 percent). Overall, 439 articles (87.28 percent) were authored exclusively by US authors (not necessarily first author) and 64 articles (12.72 percent)

by US authors in collaboration with authors from other countries. Whereas for countries like the United Kingdom, Canada and China the percentage of international collaboration is 31.63 percent, 34.43 percent and 41.18 percent respectively. The result agrees with the findings of Frame and Carpenter (1979), where they concluded that the larger a country's research effort (the greater the number of its publications) the smaller is the proportion of international co-authorship associated with the country.

Further analysis of the authorship pattern by country indicated that there are 8 countries from which authors contribute articles only under solo authorship and 10 countries from which authors contribute articles only under joint authorship. Authors from these 10 countries are the co-authors of the remaining 37 countries. On the other hand, there are 3 countries from which authors contribute articles only with authors from other countries and 16 countries from which authors do not collaborate with any other country. Sin (2006) pointed out that researchers could be influenced by factors other than the substantive content of the work itself. Authors working in reputed organizations were more likely to be perceived favorably. It may be that authors in low-income countries might be placed in a less advantageous position. Nevertheless, it was gratifying to see publication from most parts of the globe. Kofi Annan called on the world's scientists to close the research and development gap between developed and developing countries (Annan 2003).

### **Prolific Authors and their Productivity**

Authors' productivity is defined as the number of papers an author has published within a given duration. In fact, assessing the importance of multiple authorship is problematic. Giving every author of a paper one credit in measuring author productivity, a total of 2153 authors, including first author and coauthors, were identified from the articles in *JASIST*. Table 6 lists 19 prolific authors and the number of articles they published in *JASIST* during 2000–2007. Each name appears on 5 or more articles (irrespective of whether the author is the first named or not). This table also indicates the number of articles they have published under single and joint authorships.

It is clear from the table that most of the prolific authors contributed their articles in joint authorship. Among the first 10 prolific authors, out

of their 185 publications, 151 articles appeared in joint authorship and 32 articles in single authorship. Mike Thelwall occupies the first position with a contribution of 17 articles; 13 of these appeared under joint authorship. He is followed by L. Egghe (16 articles), Amanda Spink and Ronald Rousseau (both published 14 articles). Each article of *JASIST* prints the dates of submission, final acceptance and date of electronic publication. In most of the cases, the lapse of time between submission or acceptance and publication varies between 8–12 months. So contributions of more than one article per year in this 8-year period signify that some authors in LIS have been producing their research papers at a fast rate. It may also indicate that some authors are more likely than the others to have their papers accepted by this journal.

### **Citations Given versus Citations Received**

As indicated in Table 7A, the 975 articles published in *JASIST* contained 35,045 references and received 9379 citations up to August 2009. The number of references per articles has increased from 33.43 in 2000 to 41.26 in 2007. The maximum average number of references per article was noted in 2007 (about 42 references per article), and the minimum in 2001 (about 31 references per article).

On the other hand, articles published in 2000 received the highest number of citations (1762 citations) whereas the lowest was recorded in respect of articles published in 2007 (525 citations), followed by articles published in 2005 (792 citations). Overall, the average number of citations per article is 10.59. There are 103 articles (10.56 percent) that have not received any citations up to August 2009. These articles were mostly published in 2007 (47 articles) followed by 2006 (22 articles) and 2005 (12 articles). The average number of references per article increased by 7.83 from 2000 to 2007 whereas the average number of citations per article decreased by 13.85 during same period. This implies that the number of references does not influence whether or not an article attracts citations.

Although the vast changes in publication technology and electronic mail now make it possible to access articles immediately after publication, these did not result yet in getting citations faster. The low number of citations for 2007 may thus be ignored at this stage, however the numbers

Rank	Name	Total articles	Authorship		Year									
			Single	Joint	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
1	Thelwall, M.	17	4	13	0	1	1	4	0	5	2	4		
2	Egghe, L.	16	9	7	4	1	2	2	0	3	1	3		
3	Spink, A.	14	0	14	0	2	7	0	0	2	1	2		
3	Rousseau, R.	14	2	12	4	1	0	2	2	2	1	2		
4	Yang, C.C.	12	0	12	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	3		
5	Ford, N.	11	2	9	1	0	5	1	1	0	2	1		
5	Chen, H.C.	11	0	11	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	1		
5	Leydesdorff, L.	11	6	5	0	1	1	0	1	2	3	3		
6	Cole, C.	10	2	8	3	0	1	1	0	2	2	1		
7	Cronin, B.	9	2	7	0	2	1	1	2	2	0	1		
8	Beheshti, J.	8	0	8	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	1		
8	Large, A.	8	0	8	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	1		
9	Jansen, B.J.	7	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2		
9	Chau, M.	7	0	7	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	3		
10	Chen, C.M.	6	2	4	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0		
10	Foster, A.	6	1	5	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0		
10	Jorgensen, C.	6	2	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1		
10	Meho, L.I.	6	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2		
10	Vaughan, L.	6	1	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0		
	Total	185	34	151	19	14	30	19	14	32	26	31		

Table 6. JASIST, 2000–2007: articles published by most prolific authors (more than 5 articles), by authorship pattern and year. Note: Contributions other than articles are not considered for determining most prolific authors.

of citations for articles published during 2005 and 2006 may suggest that an article needs more than 2 years to receive an adequate number of citations. One must allow more than 2 years for articles to be read, to influence a researcher or scholar in some way, and thus become part of a study and eventually be cited in the published results of that study.

In the next step we have analysed the numbers of articles by the numbers of citations received. According to Table 7B, the highest percentage of articles (44.21 percent) in this journal received 1–5 citations, followed by 17.33 percent which received 6–10 citations. The number of articles receiving 11–20 and 21–30 citations is 15.49 percent and 6.26 percent respectively. Six articles

Year	Total articles	Citations given				Citations received			
		Articles without references	Total references	% of total	Average number of references/article	Articles not receiving citations	Total citations	% of total	Average number of citations/article
2000	105	0	3510	10.02	33.43	5	1762	18.79	16.78
2001	99	0	3035	8.66	30.66	3	1511	16.11	15.26
2002	105	0	3393	9.68	32.31	4	1688	18.00	16.08
2003	103	0	3538	10.10	34.35	5	1294	13.80	12.56
2004	100	0	3462	9.88	34.62	5	899	9.59	8.99
2005	121	0	6143	17.53	50.77	12	792	8.44	6.55
2006	163	0	4578	13.06	28.09	22	908	9.68	5.57
2007	179	0	7386	21.08	41.26	47	525	5.60	2.93
Total	975	0	35045	100.00	35.94	103	9379	100.00	10.59

Table 7A. JASIST, 2000–2007: articles published, by citation pattern (citations given and citations received).

Note: Citations received up to August 2009 have been included.

Year	Articles receiving citations	Numbers of citations received						
		1–5	6–10	11–20	21–30	30–50	51–99	> = 100
2000	100	29	16	27	11	13	2	2
2001	96	40	20	18	8	6	2	2
2002	101	32	14	21	19	10	5	0
2003	98	40	16	24	8	6	2	2
2004	95	39	22	24	8	2	0	0
2005	109	56	30	18	4	1	0	0
2006	141	87	35	14	2	2	1	0
2007	132	108	16	5	1	2	0	0
Total	872	431	169	151	61	42	12	6
%	89.44	44.21	17.33	15.49	6.26	4.31	1.23	0.62

Table 7B. JASIST, 2000–2007: articles receiving citations, by numbers of citations received.

were cited over 100 times, while 12 articles received more than 50 citations. Seglen in his study concludes that a relatively small number of highly cited articles can disproportionately skew the impact factor for a journal (Seglen 1997). From the finding of the present study it seems that this may be one of the possible reasons for the ISI Impact Factor of this journal to have dropped from 6 in 2005 to 13 in 2007 or 11 in 2008.

**Page Length of Articles**

Tables 8A and 8B reveal the length and range of page length of articles published in *JASIST* during 2000–2007. Out of 975 articles, 480 (49.23 percent) had between 10 and 14 pages, 250 articles (25.64 percent) had between 5 and 9 pages and 164 articles (16.82 percent) had between 15 and 20 pages. There were only 46 articles (4.71 percent) with fewer than 5 pages,

and 6 (0.61 percent) with between 25 and 30 pages. The arithmetic mean of page length of all articles ranges from 10.58 to 12.12. Throughout the years the median values varied between 11–12, which means that the page length of 50 percent or more of the articles was 11/12 pages. It is worth considering whether or not it is appropriate to set a minimum page length for a publication in order to know the quality of contributions. One could even take into account differences in the number of printed characters (or words) per page in any journal.

**Highly Cited Authors**

There are no strict rules regarding thresholds for citation-based author selection in author co-citation analysis studies (McCain 1990). The old method of listing contributors in alphabetical order is waning, and the matter of who comes

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. of articles	105	99	105	103	100	121	163	179
Total pages for articles	1218	1047	1160	1205	1166	1450	1870	2170
Mean page length of articles	11.60	10.58	11.05	11.70	11.66	11.98	11.47	12.12
Median page length of articles	12	11	11	12	11	11	12	12

Table 8A. *JASIST*, 2000–2007: mean and median page lengths of articles published, by year.

Year	Number of pages						Total
	1–4	5–9	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–30	
2000	5	31	41	25	3	0	2105
2001	5	35	47	10	2	0	2100
2002	6	31	53	13	1	1	2107
2003	6	29	47	16	3	2	2106
2004	4	29	44	19	3	1	2104
2005	4	25	68	15	8	1	2126
2006	8	34	91	28	2	0	2169
2007	8	36	89	38	7	1	2186
Total	46	250	480	164	29	6	975
%	4.71	25.64	49.23	16.82	2.97	0.61	

Table 8B. *JASIST*, 2000–2007: articles published, by number of pages.

first has assumed almost heroic proportions in some situations.

Table 9 ranks the top 30 authors according to the total citations they received. In this table, the number of citations for joint author articles is further expanded. We have also calculated the citations under authors' various positions in the article. The names of authors mentioned in this list may not necessarily appear in the 'list of most prolific authors' in Table 6, if articles by the latter have not received an adequate number of citations. However, most of the most prolific authors also appear in Table 9. As shown in Table 9, articles under joint authorship received more than 4 times as many citations (4674) as articles written by single authors (1036). However the numbers of citations per article for single and joint authorship are nearly the same, at 23.02 for single authorship and 24.22 for joint authorship.

In the citation ranking of authors, Amanda Spink is in first position, having received a total of 514 citations, with an average of 36.71 citations per article. She wrote 14 articles, for which most of the citations were for articles where she was second author (368 citations). Mike Thelwall holds second position with 334 citations. His 4 articles under single authorship received a total of 163 citations (40.75 per article) whereas his 13 articles under joint authorship received 171 citations (13.15 per article). D. Wolfram holds third position with 274 citations. He wrote 5 articles, all in joint authorship, of which most citations were for articles where he was second author (271 citations) rather than first author (3 citations). The citation details of other authors are presented in Table 9.

Most of the top 30 highly cited authors were from the USA (19), followed by the UK (5) and Canada (3).

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### **Conclusion**

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This study endeavoured to analyse the present status of LIS research with the help of a study of the contents of *JASIST* over a recent period of 8 years. It is essentially not a comprehensive analysis of LIS journals published during the time scale of the study. No attempt is made to measure the impact or innovative quality of articles. We also ignore the problem of publishing favoritism (e.g. where faculty and graduates of the same

university as the editor of a journal have a higher probability of having their articles accepted).

Naturally, the question that may arise in our mind is, can analysis of a single journal tell us much about our discipline? The bibliographic characteristics of this journal may help to improve the understanding of information behaviors in the field of library and information science, if the full length research articles considered in the current study are representative of this journal, and the journal is representative of the information science discipline. Undoubtedly, *JASIST* is one of the oldest journals in our field, and represents the changing scenario of our discipline accurately. It is the hope of the author that analysis of the content of *JASIST* will provide more insight into the current state of library and information science research, and provide some basis for future projections.

From the perspective of the present study, we may conclude that there is a substantial increase of research in the LIS discipline, with authors from all over the globe trying to disseminate their research output through a reputable peer-reviewed journal.

By completing the bibliometric analysis of authorship information, this study, together with the previous studies, indicates that the number of authors has risen from an average of 2.06 per article in 2000 to 2.30 in 2007, higher than the average of 1.2 authors per article in 1950, which increased to 1.8 per article in 1999. The percentage of single-author articles decreased, although they continue to be the most frequent among all the articles. This may be a result of many factors: a tendency for more authors to participate in producing one paper to make the work less burdensome; much research is complex, requiring joint researchers and therefore joint authors; increased cooperation and communication among researchers in the field; or significant publication pressure. Consistent with previous studies, this study also found a much greater proportion of academic affiliations among authors than those of other sectors.

In terms of geographic distribution, there is a very evident majority of articles from the United States, which might constitute a challenge for other nations to expand their research activity. Even though authors from the USA are dominant, authors from other continents like Europe and

Name (Country)	TA		AWC		CR		TCR	CPA	Citations by authors' position in joint-author articles							
	S	J	S	J	S	J			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Spink, A. (USA)	0	14	0	0	0	514	514	36.71	368	76					19	
Theilwall, M. (UK)	4	13	0	0	163	171	334	19.65	80	87	4					
Wolfram, D. (USA)	0	5	0	0	0	274	274	54.80	3	271						
Jansen, M.B.J. (S. Korea)	0	1	0	0	0	231	231	231			231					
Saracevic, T. (USA)	0	1	0	0	0	231	231	231			231					
Jansen, B.J. (USA)	0	7	0	0	0	221	221	31.57	209		12					
Bilal, D. (USA)	3	1	0	0	208	6	214	53.50	6							
Rousseau, R. (Belgium)	2	12	0	1	5	202	207	14.79	14	103	85					
Ford, N. (Belgium)	2	9	0	0	28	171	199	18.09	67	30	74					
Chen, H.C. (USA)	0	11	0	0	0	187	187	17	56	61	52	3				15
Vaughan, L. (Canada)	1	5	0	0	16	163	179	29.83	124	39						
White, H.D. (USA)	3	1	0	0	148	28	176	44	28							
Cronin, B. (USA)	2	7	0	0	37	135	172	19.11	130	5						
Leydesdorff, L. (Netherlands)	6	5	0	0	83	74	157	14.27	65	9						
Kling, R. (USA)	0	4	0	0	0	150	150	37.50	136	14						
Foster, A. (UK)	1	5	0	0	25	122	147	24.50			21	101				
Pooch, U. (USA)	0	1	0	0	0	139	139	139								
Chen, C.M. (UK)	2	4	0	0	68	66	134	22.33	59			7				
Egghe, L. (Belgium)	9	7	1	0	53	78	131	8.19	78							
McKim, G. (USA)	0	2	0	0	0	128	128	64		128						
Shaw, D. (USA)	0	4	0	0	0	128	128	32		128						

(Table 9 Continued)

(Table 9 Continued)

Name (Country)	TA		AWC		CR		TCR	CPA	Citations by authors' position in joint-author articles							
	S	J	S	J	S	J			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ellis, D. (UK)	0	5	0	0	0	0	122	24.40	19	30	21	52				
Wilson, T.D. (UK)	0	5	0	0	0	0	122	24.40	30	92						
Beheshti, J. (Canada)	0	8	0	0	0	0	110	13.75	101	3	6					
Large, A. (Canada)	0	8	0	1	0	0	110	13.75	95	6	3	6				
Meho, L.I. (USA)	1	5	0	0	8	91	99	16.5	86	5						
Hjorland, B. (Sweden)	3	1	0	0	80	18	98	24.50	18							
Kim, K.S. (USA)	0	2	0	0	0	96	96	48	37	59						
Chau, M. (USA)	0	7	0	0	0	85	85	12.14	24	37	24					
Rieh, S.Y. (USA)	2	0	0	0	84	0	84	42								
Ahlgren, P. (Sweden)	0	1	0	0	0	78	78	78								
Jarneving, B. (Belgium)	0	1	0	0	0	78	78	78		78						
Yang, C.C. (P.R. China)	0	12	0	1	0	78	78	6.50	52	20	6					
Boyack, K.W. (USA)	0	3	0	0	0	77	77	25.67	51	26						
Jarvelin, K. (Finland)	1	5	0	0	2	72	74	12.33	2	62	4					
Cole, C. (USA)	2	8	1	0	13	60	73	7.30	21	25	14					
Davis, P.M. (USA)	1	3	0	0	15	58	73	18.25	58							
Totals	45	193	2	3	1036	4674	5710									

Table 9. Highly cited authors (Top 30 authors).

Key: TA = Total Articles. AWC = Articles Without Citations. CR = Citations Received. TCR = Total Citations Received (up to August 2009). CPA=Citations per article.

Asia have started to increase their influence. Moreover, although the trend is slight, there is also an increasing trend of research from intra-country to inter-country, with the increased use of communication technology.

The pattern of citations given or received indicates that authors are citing increasing numbers of references in their articles; however, there is no relationship between the number of references cited in a paper and the number of citations to the paper in other sources. This was an exploratory study using articles published in a single journal and is inherently not generalizable. However, a comparison of the numbers of citations received with year of publication, indicates that a period of 2 years is not enough for an article to begin to receive citations.

Ranking or rating of high-profile institutions, programs, and individuals are complex tasks and various factors and methods need to be considered. Such an analysis for the field of LIS can provide an additional perspective on the nature and extent of all LIS faculty members' contributions to the literature. These analyses, however, generally do not paint a complete picture of the whole population of authors from which the elite stand out. However, this study has identified some of the most productive authors published in *JASIST*, whose articles are widely read and cited by the LIS research community. Overall, the study has revealed some changes in our discipline – more scholarly articles, more contributors from around the globe, and more collaboration between researchers.

A suggestion for further research is to compare the findings of this study with a review of other related journals in the field of LIS. The variables examined in this study could be replicated in an examination of these journals. Studies like this one could also be conducted every few years to measure the longitudinal changes in our discipline.

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## World Library and Information Congress, Milan, 2009: Opening Address by the President of the Italian Library Association

**Mauro Guerrini**

Minister of Culture, Mayor of Milan, President of Province of Milan, President of Lombardy Region, Madam President, dear Claudia Lux, Delegates and friends:

Italy's librarians are very proud to welcome you all to the 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly in Milan. For the fourth time Italy has the honour of hosting the IFLA Conference. We can say that IFLA was born in Italy 80 years ago: in fact, on the occasion of the first World Congress of Librarianship and Bibliography, opened in Rome in June 1929, with about 1300 delegates from 40 countries, the new name of a newborn

association was proposed: the 'International Federation of Library Associations'. The second IFLA meeting in Italy was held in 1951, and the third one in 1964, again in Rome.

The establishment of IFLA has been a milestone in making our profession truly international. The history of the IFLA General Conferences can indeed be considered a success story, which is clearly confirmed by the fact that about 3,500 librarians and information professionals from 180 countries have come together here in Milan.

As you know, Italy has different typologies of libraries for different kinds of users. Italian libraries have a long history. In recent years, Italy has been extremely active in funding restorations of historic buildings, in investing in new libraries and in information technology, and in establishing a national library network (SBN).

At the same time, Italian librarians have experienced considerable professional improvement, thanks to the spread of library science in university courses, the professional training by the Italian Library Association (AIB) and by public and private agencies, the growth of LIS periodicals, and the participation of an increasing number of librarians in the international scientific debate.

The title of this IFLA Conference is 'Libraries create Futures: Building on Cultural Heritage'. Libraries must keep a balance between past and present. The advent of digital information, especially of the Internet, as a common denominator in modern society have led to a radically different quality of information and communication.

How must we react to this development, as librarians? Major issues – apart from the well-known systematic collecting, cataloguing, archiving of our heritage, and reading promotion – include



*Mauro Guerrini*

three points, especially in this time of global economic crisis:

- first, in the interest of their users, libraries must improve cooperation amongst themselves, ideally world-wide
- second, the object of libraries' work has traditionally had an international focus, and it is now pushed to convergence with archives and museums
- third, libraries have always had and still have an important social function. They are 'public places' that are open to anyone regardless of what one does or who one is.

How can libraries use their specific skills and experiences to make themselves fundamental in the digital age? Libraries must add an educational aspect to their traditional role of supplying information. The Knowledge Society, our society, needs responsible and emancipated citizens who have acquired the skill of information competence.

With new types of information production and dissemination, libraries must redefine their function in the information chain. In the print world, the library was assigned the role of an intermediary between author, publisher, vendor and reader. In the new digital world those functions are changing. The Internet allows everyone to be author and reader alike. Libraries should support the principle of Open Access, in the spirit of the Berlin Declaration, and cope with copyright issues in order to cooperate for a new balance between production and use of knowledge.

It is the libraries in particular that should take care of collecting and preserving the digital material.

Digital long-term preservation is an urgent issue, because otherwise we will be confronted with a global loss of memory of a hitherto unknown dimension.

'Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage'. The term 'futures' is plural because the world is plural. And plurality means diversity: plurality and diversity, or multiculturalism, has always been ensured by libraries in the name of tolerance and respect for ideas, religious beliefs, and cultural systems. The physical contiguity of the books on a shelf is the best example of coexistence that can possibly be imagined: the utopia of the possible. In the plurality we build together the tradition of the future.

Finally, I wish to remind us all that last April a heavy earthquake hit the town of L'Aquila in the Abruzzi. This tragic event also affected the local libraries. I certainly speak on behalf of us all when I assure our colleagues in that area of our solidarity and support.

The City of Milan, the Province of Milan, the Lombardy Region, the Ministry of Culture, the Italian Library Association, all of which contributed to the organization of this Conference, would like to welcome you cordially to this event. We also invite you to enjoy the particular qualities of our country: art, music, fashion and design, the landscape, and not to be forgotten, the Italian food.

May this be a truly memorable meeting and an unforgettable experience for all.

Welcome!

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# World Library and Information Congress, Milan, 2009: Address to the General Assembly by the President of IFLA

**Claudia Lux, IFLA President, 2007–2009**

Dear colleagues,

This report covers some of the achievements of IFLA during the last year of my presidency and I am happy to tell you that thanks to the great activity of the Governing Board, the Sections and Core Activities and the Headquarters, it was a year of significant results, some based on the work done and prepared in the year before, others were new activities and challenges to carry out.

First and most important for IFLA, the new professional structure came into place. This was the result of a thorough discussion process during the last years – some of you will remember the open discussions we had in Durban. I especially want to acknowledge the Professional Committee which, under the leadership of Nancy Gwinn, completed this task. Building on this, the new statutes were accepted by the last meeting of the IFLA Council in Québec and the Secretary General together with Headquarters staff was asked to have it registered in The Hague.



*Claudia Lux, IFLA President, 2007–2009*

During the last month we had to work on the relocating of the 2010 Congress. We did this successfully and I thank again the Australian and the Swedish colleagues for their support in this matter. The Governing Board has also supported the report of the Congress Review Working Group about future World Library and Information Congresses; this will be taken up by the incoming Governing Board to make further evaluations and decisions.

During the last year we have worked on strengthening our relationship with a number of strategic partners. Following initial discussions between IFLA and representatives of international partner NGOs at the 2008 Congress in Québec, we invited representatives from the International Council of Archives (ICA), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archive Associations (CCAAA) with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) as observers, to the first partner meeting in November 2008 and held a second one in April this year. The meetings resulted in a good outline of initial activities and a new acronym, LAMMS (Libraries, Archives, Museums, Monuments and Sites). The initial priorities are the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Blue Shield, UNESCO and other common issues.

We strengthened our advocacy policy not only at different occasions, but also in an ongoing process with activities such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). At the December 2008 meeting, the Governing Board endorsed the IFLA's advocacy framework for the period 2009–2011. This framework links our representational advocacy with training and awareness raising actions. Professional development, political advocacy and community advocacy are the areas where training and awareness raising will take place. Supported by special advocacy tools, there will be strong development in realizing

advocacy training for our members with a focus on national library associations, who become drivers of these activities.

After Québec and with the new Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson in place, there were quite a few changes at IFLA Headquarters, which has led to new energy and some great results. Many of these you might not see, but one significant and very visible change was the launch of the new website in April 2009. In addition, after much hard work from HQ staff, we have again a growing membership base. Because of the support of the IFLA HQ and staff, there is now a Presidential Newsletter every month. Because of the support of IFLA HQ and staff, it has never been easier to join IFLA. Due to the support of IFLA HQ and staff it was a joy to be IFLA President with such an energetic Secretariat, coming up with new ideas and new practices. This is why I want to acknowledge how much I appreciate the work of the colleagues at the HQ, and as it is hard to mention all of them here, I just say thank you to them – not only for the last year but for the years they have supported me in my work in the governing board and as President-elect and as President. And I want to thank Jennefer Nicholson for her excellent and motivating leadership of the team in The Hague.

The Secretary General will also report on some great results from our Core Activities and there are special reports on the web about them. I just want to express my thanks to all those who have contributed and supported the work of the Core Activities, the work of the Regional Offices and Language Centers – you have done a tremendous work during the last year and everybody can see the good results. As a result of IFLA's language policy, we have the continuation of simultaneous interpretation during the Congress as well as the translation of IFLA Express into all the seven official languages, emphasizing the multilingual and multicultural strategy of IFLA. Thank you all for your work well done.

When I started my Presidency I not only stressed the factor of advocacy, but I also told you how much I appreciate having more IFLA guidelines, as they are of direct use to our members. Again, some Sections have produced guidelines, including: UNIMARC Guidelines on Manuscripts, Guidelines on Parliamentary Websites, Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri, National Bibliographies in the Digital Age: Guidance and new

directions, Guidelines for Legislative Libraries, Guidelines for Intellectual Property Administrations and a Russian translation of the Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri, and a German translation of Guidelines for OPAC Displays. There are more guidelines in the pipeline and I want to take the opportunity to thank all the Sections for their wonderful work done during the last year.

During my Presidency, urged by the current *IFLA Journal* editor Stephen Parker, I introduced the President's Page in *IFLA Journal*—which focuses on current issues—and since January I have been writing the Presidential Newsletter, with the assistance and support of IFLA headquarters.

Like the two years before, the third IFLA Presidential Meeting was held in Berlin to bring together librarians and their political counterparts from the ministry or municipality to discuss the 'Libraries on the Agenda' topics. The Presidential Meetings were supported by the Foreign Ministry of Germany, the Goethe Institute, the German Library Association and some foundations; I want to express my sincere thanks to all of them.

Before I come to the end, let me say thank you.

Thank you to the Governing Board. It was such a supportive and friendly atmosphere to work with you and we achieved much more than I imagined when I began my Presidency; I especially want to thank all outgoing members of the GB. I also thank the officers here and the members of the Sections that you took on not only the hard work in your specialized field but also ideas of my presidential theme 'Libraries on the Agenda'. I want to thank all members of IFLA that I could work with you during the last two years as a President, I want to thank you for your support of libraries and information issues and I want to acknowledge how much I enjoyed to talk with you all, wherever in the world I was able to meet you. As said before, I want to thank again IFLA staff in the HQ and in the Regional Offices and those supporting us in the Language Centers.

I want to thank all my colleagues from all German library and librarian associations and from German libraries who supported me so much during my time as President and President-elect and to my staff at home and my deputy directors – without the work they took on from me, I would not have been able to take on the presidency of IFLA. I want to express a special thank you to

my wonderful colleagues all around the world from the Goethe Institute, who supported my presidency and took on 'Libraries on the Agenda' in many activities. There are so many colleagues I have to name, who have supported me in different ways. It is not possible to name you all – so just take it as a thank you from my heart to you.

Nevertheless, I want to give a special acknowledgement to a few people for their continuous support:

Claus Michaletz, former CEO of Springer, a sponsor of my library and of IFLA activities.

Diann Pelz-Rusch, some of you will know better as Diann Rusch-Feja, who helped me to find the correct English expression – sometimes late in the night, when I was writing a presentation in the last minute – and polished my English wherever needed.

Hella Klauser, from the Center of Library Excellence at the German Library Association, Secretary

of German IFLA National Committee and Chair of Library and Information International in Germany who worked for me day and night to support my presidency, to organize the presidential meetings and who was able to put into practice many of my ideas in such a wonderful way, I would not have been able to do it.

And last but not least the IFLA President Elect, Ellen Tise, who supported me during these wonderful two years and turned our professional work to a great friendship with a lot of fun together. Ellen, it was great to work with you and I wish—from tomorrow evening on—that you will have as much fun and joy as I had during my time as President of IFLA.

Thank you all!

(This address was also distributed via IFLA-L as IFLA Presidential Newsletter No. 7 August 2009)

## From the Secretariat

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### The IFLA Governing Board 2009–2011 – a brief introduction

2009 again was an election year for IFLA. During the General Assembly in Milan the new IFLA Governing Board for 2009–2011 was installed. Below you find an overview of the IFLA Governing Board members, their jobs in daily life and their special roles in the various IFLA committees.

#### Ellen Tise – IFLA President

Ellen Tise is Senior Director Library and Information Services, J.S. Gericke Library, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa. Ellen is IFLA President for the 2009–2011 period.

#### Ingrid Parent – IFLA President Elect

Ingrid Parent is University Librarian of the University of British Columbia, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Canada. As President Elect 2009–2011, Ingrid is Ex Officio member of the IFLA Professional Committee. She is also representing the IFLA GB in the IFLA/IPA Steering Group.

#### Barbara Schleihagen – IFLA Treasurer

Barbara Schleihagen is Executive Director of the German Library Association. Deutscher Bibliotheksverband e.V. (DBV), Berlin, Germany. Barbara is IFLA Treasurer for the 2009–2011 period.

#### Helena Asamoah-Hassan

Helena Asamoah-Hassan is University Librarian at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, KNUST Library, Kumasi, Ghana. Helena is a member of the GB in the IFLA Professional Committee.

#### Jesús Lau

Jesús Lau is Academic Librarian at the University of Veracruz in Mexico. Jesús is also member of the IFLA Executive Committee.

#### Buhle Mbambo-Thata – Chair of Division V Regions

Buhle is Executive Director of Library Services of the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria. Buhle is a member of the IFLA Professional Committee and representing the GB in the FAIFE Advisory Board.

#### Danielle Mincio

Danielle Mincio is Head of Manuscript Collections at the Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire, Lausanne, Switzerland. Danielle is representing the IFLA GB in the PAC Advisory Board. She is also Secretary of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section.

#### Tone Moseid

Tone Eli Moseid is Director at the Norwegian Archives, Libraries and Museums Authority (ABM-Utvikling), Oslo, Norway. Tone is representing the IFLA GB at the IFLA Professional Committee. She is also Secretary of the IFLA Library Services to People with Special Needs Section.

#### Pascal Sanz

Pascal Sanz is Director of the Département Droit, économie, politique of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France. Pascal is also member of the Executive Committee.

#### Donna Scheeder

Donna Scheeder is Director, Law Library Services at the Library of Congress, Washington, USA. Donna is also member of the IFLA GB Finance Committee.

#### Sinikka Sipilä

Sinikka Sipilä is Secretary General of the Finnish Library Association, Helsinki, Finland. Sinikka is also member of the IFLA GB Finance Committee.

#### Paul Whitney

Paul Whitney is City Librarian of the Vancouver Public Library in Vancouver, Canada. He is also representing the IFLA GB in the CLM Advisory Board.

#### Qiang Zhu

Qiang Zhu is Director of the Peking University Library in Beijing, China.

**Patrice Landry – Chair of the IFLA Professional Committee.**

Patrice Landry is Chief of Classification and Indexing at the Swiss National Library in Bern, Switzerland. Patrice is also representing the IFLA GB in the ICADS Board. As Chair of the IFLA Professional Committee he is also member of the Executive Committee.

**Steve Witt – Chair of Division I – Library Types**

Steve Witt is Associate Director of the Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA. Steve is also member of the IFLA Professional Committee and the IFLA GB Finance Committee.

**Ann Okerson – Chair of Division II – Library Services**

Ann Okerson is Associate University Librarian for Collections & International Programs, Yale University Library, Sterling Memorial Library, New Haven, USA. Ann is member of the IFLA Professional Committee and she is representing the IFLA GB in the IFLA Journal Editorial Committee.

**Judith Field – Chair of Division III – Library Services**

Judith is Senior Lecturer, Library and Information Science at the Wayne State University, Detroit, USA. Judith is member of the IFLA Professional Committee and she is representing the IFLA GB in the UNIMARC Committee.

**Michael Heaney – Chair of Division IV – Support of the Profession**

Michael Heaney is Executive Secretary of the Oxford University Library Services (Bodleian Library), Oxford, United Kingdom. Michael is member of the IFLA Professional Committee and representing the IFLA GB in the IFLA/IPA Steering Group.

**Janice Lachance – Chair of the IFLA Management and Library Associations Section**

Janice Lachance is Chief Executive Officer of the Special Libraries Association (SLA).

Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General is member of the IFLA Governing Board Ex Officio.

**Membership Matters**

**New Members**

We bid a warm welcome to the 29 members who have joined the Federation between 28 July and 25 September 2009.

*Institutions*

- Presidential Library, Azerbaijan
- Botswana Examinations Council, Botswana
- Petrobras Transporte S/A – TRANSPETRO, Brazil
- Organisation Ouest Africaine de la Sante, Burkina Faso
- Politecnico Grancolombiano Institucion Universitaria, Colombia
- Iraqi Council of Representatives, Research Directorate, Iraq

- NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences / Internationaal Hoger Onderwijs Breda, Netherlands
- Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações, Portugal
- Sistema bibliotecario ticinese (Sbt), Switzerland
- The City University of New York, United States
- Family History Library, United States
- Russian School Libraries Association, Russian Federation
- Frederikshavn City Archives, Denmark

*Personal Affiliates*

- Guy Firmin Marie De Witte, Belgium
- Elisabeth Dudziak, Brazil

- Elaine Ménard, Canada
- Tanja Harrison, Canada
- Dagmar Schultz, Germany
- Yashiho Kikkawa, Japan
- Abdulahi Ibrahim A., Nigeria
- Jane W.F. Smith, Suriname
- Britta Biedermann, Switzerland
- Milena Dobрева, United Kingdom
- Tricia Adams, United Kingdom
- Patricia Glowinski, United States
- Marilyn Russell, United States
- Deborah D. Cobb, United States

*Student Affiliates*

- Keren Dali, Canada
- Chiku Mchombu, Namibia

**News from Milan**

**Congress Attendance**

Some 4,500 persons participated in the World Library and Information

Congress in Milan, including volunteers, exhibitors, IFLA staff and others, and no less than 3931 registrants – more than 1,000 of whom were first-timers. Not

surprisingly, Italy ranked first in terms of the number of delegates, with the United States, Finland, China and the United Kingdom also in the top five among the

## Future IFLA Conferences and Meetings

127 countries represented. A total of 230 papers were presented in 219 meetings; in addition, there were 103 poster sessions and 98 exhibitors.

### Latest Football Results

This is probably the first time this heading has appeared in the News Section of IFLA Journal; it appears now thanks to the organizers and participants in the 1st International IFLA Football Tournament, held during the World Library and Information Congress in Milan on 26 August 2009. We are indebted to Stephan Schwarz for the following report:

Within the framework of this year's IFLA World Congress in Milan, a remarkable event took place: the 1st International IFLA Football Tournament. Some 50 delegates and other library employees had gathered at the Centro Sportivo Fenaroli, the football pitch of the Catholic University of Milan at the northernmost end of the city, on Wednesday 26 August to prove that librarians have not only an

outstanding command of dealing with books or bibliographic data but also an outstanding command of handling a ball. There were four teams: one from Italy, one from the Catholic University of Milan, one from the Bavarian State Library, Germany, and one team made up of IFLA delegates from different countries. The IFLA team that, by the way, had never got together before, included not only librarians from all over the world, but also the only "lady kicker". The football tournament, the first in the 75-year history of the IFLA, had been organized by Klaus Kempf, head of the Department of Acquisitions, Collection Development and Cataloguing of the Bavarian State Library, and the Catholic University of Milan who had contributed to the success of the tournament not only by providing the football pitch and the catering but also by arranging the logistics.

At the beginning of the tournament, the four teams were solemnly welcomed by playing their corresponding national anthems—for the IFLA team there was the European anthem *Ode to Joy*—and shortly

introduced. Then the matches began. It was played on a small field, each match took 20 minutes (two halves, each of only 10 minutes). The audience that had been brought from the congress centre to the pitch by an extra shuttle-bus had the opportunity to watch the pulsating matches and many brilliant goals.

About noon, the tournament had some esteemed visitors: Claudia Lux, IFLA President 2007–2009, and Mauro Guerrini, President of the Italian Library Association AIB and head of the IFLA National Organizing Committee of Italy. Several pictures of the football teams and the IFLA officials were immediately taken in order to conserve the memory of this 1st International IFLA Football Tournament for the ensuing ages.

The winner of the tournament was the team from Germany (Bavarian State Library), with the Italian team in second place, Università Cattolica (Milan) in third, and the IFLA team fourth and last. A disappointment for the IFLA team, but everyone enjoyed themselves!

## Future IFLA Conferences and Meetings

### Gothenburg 2010

#### Open access to knowledge – promoting sustainable progress

The chosen motto for the next World Library and Information Congress in Gothenburg 2010 energizes and supports the presidential motto of the new IFLA President, Ellen Tise: *Libraries driving access to knowledge*.

On the bookmarks promoting the 2010 Congress, there are some associations around this theme and the development of libraries,

which might inspire the work to be done to bring it into activities.

Free access to knowledge, as important as freedom of speech

Accessible for all, even for the visually impaired or others with reading difficulties

Open and inclusive, no matter who you are or where you come from

Public domain, a place on the net or in a physical space, where people contribute and socially share content produced and owned as a public service

Open for ideas with user driven innovation, where the user might as well be the producer

Open access publishing for further knowledge building and a better balance between copyright laws and freedom of information

Why is this so essential?

Access to knowledge opens the world of imagination and creativity, thus progress for one individual is progress for the society. That is the base for true sustainable progress.

*Inga Lundén, President, Swedish Library Association*

## Grants and Awards

### Honorary Fellowship for Klaus G. Saur

At the General Assembly meeting on 26 August, Klaus G. Saur received an IFLA Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his service as IFLA's Publisher for more than 30 years.

### IFLA Awards

During the Closing Session on 27 August, Claudia Lux, President of IFLA, handed out the following awards:

#### Best Poster Session

'New vs. Old Photos: Keep Cultural Heritage in Guangzhou Alive.'  
Presenters: Ni Junming and Huang Qunqing, China.

#### Newsletter of the Year Award

This award went to the Literacy and Reading Section Newsletter.

#### IFLA Scroll

IFLA Scrolls were awarded to the following:

##### *Bruce Royan*

In grateful recognition for his invaluable contributions to IFLA, especially to IFLA's Information and Technology and Audiovisual and Multimedia Sections.

##### *Barbara B. Tillett*

In grateful recognition for her leadership in international bibliographic control, in particular her establishment of the IFLA Cataloguing Principles, 2003–2009.

##### *Gunilla Natvig*

In grateful recognition for her service as Administrative Officer 1993–2009 of the IFLA/ALP Programme, Uppsala and for her services to IFLA around the globe.

##### *Brigitta Sandell*

In grateful recognition for her service as Programme Officer 1993–2000 and Director 2000–2009 of the IFLA/ALP Programme, Uppsala and for all her services to IFLA around the globe.

##### *Italian National Committee*

As a token of IFLA's appreciation for the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by the National Committee in the organization of this very successful conference.

#### IFLA Medal

##### *Ulf Göranson and the Uppsala University Library*

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the IFLA/ALP Programme, in grateful recognition of their support for IFLA in hosting this programme for 20 years.

##### *Winnie Vitzansky*

For her distinguished service to IFLA and the international library community through her leadership in international advocacy for professional library services and free and equal access for all.

##### *Shawky Salem*

For his distinguished service to IFLA and the international library community through his leadership in representation, contribution to the professional literature, and support for development of the profession.

### Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Access to Learning Award 2009

On 25 August the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation presented its 2009 Access to Learning Award of USD 1 million to the Fundación Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM Foundation) for its innovative use of technology in public libraries to promote community development. The Colombian organization is being honored for helping provide the people of Medellín and the metropolitan area with the skills and tools they need to improve their communities and their lives. Microsoft, a partner of the Gates Foundation in its efforts to help public libraries connect people to the Internet, will provide the EPM Foundation's network of libraries with software and technology training curriculum.

The EPM Foundation's Network of Public Libraries (NPL) provides citizens with access to information and technology through its 34 libraries. NPL is part of a regional initiative designed to use technology to increase the transparency of government, create a competitive business environment, and improve education.

Included in the network are five library parks, known as "hearts of knowledge." Located throughout the city in some of Medellín's most marginalized communities, the library parks have become cultural centers, providing broad, community access to information and educational resources. The network's libraries offer a range of training programs, including how to use the computer and access information online, and English for the Internet. The majority of NPL's patrons are from low-income communities. Most do not have a computer at home,

and the libraries serve as their only access to the digital world.

Through NPL's expanded services, the number of library visitors has jumped from 90,000 to more than 500,000 per month. NPL has also helped narrow the digital divide in Medellín and the metropolitan area, rapidly reducing the individual-to-computer ratio by more than 66 percent, from 140 to 1 in 2005, to 47 to 1 in 2008.

The Gates Foundation's Access to Learning Award, now in its 10th year, recognizes the innovative efforts of libraries and similar organizations outside the United States in providing free access to computers and the Internet. It is awarded by the Global Libraries initiative, which works to open the world of knowledge, information, and opportunity to help improve the lives of millions of people.

The EPM Foundation will use the Access to Learning Award funds

to expand the services on its web portal, and develop information and communication technology training programs. These additional services will help contribute to the development of Medellín and the surrounding area.

*Source:* <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/press-releases/Pages/2009-atla-award-epm-foundation-090825.aspx>

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### IFLA International Marketing Award

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The winners of the 7th IFLA International Marketing Award, awarded by the IFLA Section on Management and Marketing and sponsored by Emerald Group Publishing Ltd., were announced during the IFLA Press Conference on 24 August.

First place was awarded to National Library Board (NLB), Singapore, represented by Sharon Koh,

(Sharon\_KOH@nlb.gov.sg). The slogan for the winning campaign is "Go Library." The GLP is a multi-platform project which aims to entice customers to the library. Significant inroads were made in outreach efforts, e.g. to schools, institutes and organizations, where there is increasing need to make the library relevant to those technologically-inclined who may receive information from online search engines or other non-conventional mediums. Through specially targeted programmes the needs of various demographic groups were addressed. To achieve maximum impact, these programmes are marketed under the "Go Library" project.

The first-place winner receives airfare, lodging, and registration for the 2009 IFLA General Conference and Council to be held this year in Milan, Italy, and a cash award of \$1,000 (U.S.) to further the marketing efforts of the library.

## IFLA Publications

**UNIMARC Manual – Authorities Format.** Edited by Mirna Willer. Munich: K.G. Saur, 2009. ISBN 978-3-598-24286-1. (IFLA Series on Bibliographic Control; Nr 38). EUR 89.95 / for USA, Canada, Mexico USD 126.00. Special price for IFLA members EUR 69.95 / for USA, Canada, Mexico USD 98.00. Also available as an eBook.

The UNIMARC Authorities Format was designed in the early 1990s to allow the creation of authority and reference records for the management of controlled access points in a bibliographic database. Incorporated in this work is relevant information from other IFLA working groups and from UNIMARC users. It is published under the auspices of the IFLA Cataloguing Section. This is the 3rd, completely updated and enlarged edition.

**Strategies for Regenerating the Library and Information Profession.** Edited by Jana Varlejs and Graham Walton. Munich: K.G. Saur, 2009. ISBN 978-3-598-22044-9. (IFLA Publications; Nr 139). EUR 99.95 / for USA, Canada, Mexico USD 140.00. Special price for IFLA members EUR 79.95 / for USA, Canada, Mexico USD 112.00.

This volume comprises papers prepared for the 8th World Conference on Continuing Professional Development (Bologna, Italy, 18–20 August 2009). Within the broad theme of creating a positive work environment for a multi-generational workforce in library and information organizations, the conference addresses managing between and across generations, mentoring and coaching, attracting people to the profession and developing a new

generation of leaders, re-skilling and transferability of skills, succession planning and passing on knowledge.

*Both the above are available from:*

K. G. Saur Verlag: [www.saur.de](http://www.saur.de)

or

Rhenus Medien Logistik GmbH & Co. KG, Justus-von-Liebig-Straße 1, 86899 Landsberg, Germany. Tel: +49 (0)8191 9 70 00-214. Fax: +49 (0)8191 9 70 00-560. E-mail: [degruyter@rhenus.de](mailto:degruyter@rhenus.de)

For the USA – Canada – Mexico: Walter de Gruyter, Inc., P.O. Box 960, Herndon, VA 20172-0960, USA. Phone: + 1 (703) 661-1589. Toll free: +1 (800) 208-8144. Fax: +1 (703) 661-1501. E-mail: [degruyter@mail@presswarehouse.com](mailto:degruyter@mail@presswarehouse.com)

## Other Publications

### From Research and Markets Ltd.

**Evaluation of Digital Libraries: An insight to useful applications and methods.** Price: hard copy: EUR 87.00.

This book summarizes information on the research and practice on both sides of the Atlantic and aims to answer the potential questions that both the theoretical and practical areas of digital library evaluation have posed during recent years. Invited experts from library and computer science fields provide a solid grounding on the essential issues that holistically cover the evaluation of these complex information systems. The book presents, systematically, aspects of participating communities, reasons and aims of evaluation, methodologies and metrics, and application paradigms.

*For more information:* [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8c9f01/evaluation\\_of\\_digital\\_libraries\\_an\\_insight\\_t](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8c9f01/evaluation_of_digital_libraries_an_insight_t)

**Library and Information Science Research in the 21st Century: A guide for practicing librarians and students.** Price: hard copy: EUR 83.00.

This book provides not only a theoretically informed research guide, but also draws attention to areas of potential research in Library and Information Science. It explores the nexus of theory and practice and offers suggestions for collaborative

projects. The clear text, simple style and rich content make the book an invaluable resource for students, scholars and practicing librarians, as well as the general reader who may be interested in library and information science research.

*Further information:* [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library\\_and\\_information\\_science\\_research\\_in\\_t](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library_and_information_science_research_in_t)

*Order online at* [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library\\_and\\_information\\_science\\_research\\_in\\_t](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library_and_information_science_research_in_t)

*Order by fax:* Print an Order form from [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library\\_and\\_information\\_science\\_research\\_in\\_t](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library_and_information_science_research_in_t) and Fax to +353 1 4100 980

*Order by mail:* Print an Order form from [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library\\_and\\_information\\_science\\_research\\_in\\_t](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/8f872b/library_and_information_science_research_in_t) and post to Research and Markets Ltd. Guinness Center, Taylors Lane, Dublin 8. Ireland.

*Further information:* Rachel Thompson, Senior Manager, Research and Markets Ltd. E-mail: [rachel.thompson@researchandmarkets.com](mailto:rachel.thompson@researchandmarkets.com)

### Electronic Library Collections

**The Kovacs Guide to Electronic Library Collection Development.**

**Essential core subject collections, selection criteria, and guidelines.** Diane K. Kovacs. Neal-Schuman Publishers Inc. ISBN: 9781555706647 Price: GBP 127.50.

This new edition covers over 15 subject areas, including jobs and employment, business, medicine, law, social sciences, engineering, computer science, physical sciences, earth sciences, arts and humanities, and more. The author updates her coverage of web collection development resources, licensing web-accessible resources and real-life e-library success stories. New and expanded chapters are dedicated to e-library management and maintenance including guidance on negotiating e-resource licenses and collection analysis. For each subject area, core collection development tools have been expanded to include Web 2.0 related services and government documents. A bonus companion website – available only to purchasers of the book – features ready-made, annotated links to all the sites in the book's recommended core reference collections in each subject area that readers can import into their library's website or OPAC.

*Available from:* Eurospan Limited, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU, UK. Direct tel: +44 (0)20 7845 0819.

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## Obituaries

### Remembering Harry Campbell

**April 22 1919 to July 31 2009**

Colleagues in many parts of the world were saddened to learn of

the passing of Henry C. (Harry) Campbell on July 31 2009.

All who knew him recognize his significance to the international community, whether their connections were through his work with IFLA – he was awarded an

IFLA Honorary Fellowship in 1981 in recognition of his continuing contribution – through UNESCO or through his work as a consultant in Asia.

I met Harry regularly, over the past 20 years, usually at an IFLA

event. One of the last times was at the IFLA Congress in Québec City in 2008.

Harry was active in IFLA for more than half a century. Always a staunch supporter of IFLA's work, particularly in the area of library development in emerging countries, his contribution extended far beyond philosophy into the realm of practical help. For example, after China's Cultural Revolution ended in 1976, Harry and his wife, Sylvia, visited the country several times to lecture on information science and to support the modernization of Chinese libraries. Recently, a grant in his name covered the costs for a delegate from a developing country to attend the annual IFLA conference.

In preparing to write this brief appreciation of Harry, I was fascinated to read various summaries of his life and interests, which clearly must have greatly enriched his formal working career. After graduate studies at the University of Toronto and Teachers' College at Columbia University in New York City, he began working at the National Film Board in Ottawa (1941 to 1946), just two years after it was founded. In part, it was created to produce films in support of the Second World War. Harry's assignment was to work on the foreign-language production of the war films.

His next career step was with the United Nations Secretariat Archives in New York (1946), while he was still a student. This resulted in an assignment in Paris, followed by seven years with the Libraries

Division of UNESCO. Clearly, this is where his deep interest in international work was nurtured. During his years in France, he was in charge of the UNESCO Library of Congress survey of World Bibliographical Services and the UNESCO Clearing House for Libraries.

It was not until 1956 that he joined the Toronto Public Library as Chief Librarian, a post he held until 1977. This was the period of great library development in many countries including Canada and Harry was in the centre of public library creativity at the Toronto Public Library.

Harry's biographical details are full of conferences, international meetings and travel, but he was no mere sightseer. He was always a active participant. At the very least, he could be counted on to add pertinent information to any debate or ask an unexpected (but always valuable) question. He was also prepared to share the responsibility of association management, notably as a members of the IFLA Governing Board (1973 to 1979).

His services to library development continued long after his official retirement from the Toronto Public Library, primarily as a consultant and writer/editor. His publications include many title related to libraries, information science and Canadian art.

These are only the bare bones of Harry Campbell's story. He was a man who cared about people, believed in access to information and the importance of libraries and books, particularly to children. As an involved individual, his goal

was to turn philosophy into action. Suffice to say, he met his goal.

*Marianne Scott*

September 2009

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### Upali Yapa

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Neil Upali Yapa, one of the leaders of the library profession in Sri Lanka, died on 28 September 2009 at the age of 65 after a brief illness. In a career which included the positions of Director/Information at the Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Centre (SLSTIC) and Chief Librarian at the International Irrigation Management Institute, Upali Yapa made major contributions to the automation of library services, interlibrary cooperation, professional education and training and the development of a national information policy and science policy for Sri Lanka. He developed a library automation software package, Purna, which is widely used in Sri Lanka, and a modified version for school libraries, Thaksila, which is distributed free to schools. He obtained his masters degree in information science from the University of West Ontario, Canada and was the longest serving lecturer of the Sri Lanka Library Association, lecturing also at the University of Kelaniya and Colombo University. He is survived by his wife, Asoka, three children and three grandchildren.

*Source: 'Upali Yapa's Death Mourned by Many', by Nan. Sunday Island Online: <http://www.island.lk/2009/10/04/features2.html> (information provided by Premila Gamage)*

## INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

### 2010

25–27 January 2010. Parma, Italy.  
**BOBCATSSS 2010.** *Theme:* Bridging the digital divide: libraries providing access for all?  
*Further information at:* <http://bobcatsss2010.unipr.it/>

4–6 February 2010. New Delhi, India.  
**International Conference on Children's Libraries – Building a Book Culture.**  
*Details and registration form:* <http://www.awic.in>

23–26 February 2010. New Delhi, India.  
**International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL).** *Theme:* Shaping the Information Paradigm.  
*For more details:* DEBAL C KAR, Organizing Secretary, ICDL Secretariat, TERI, Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003, India. Telephone [India +91 • Delhi (0)11] 24682138, 24682100, 41504900. Fax: 24682144, 24682145. E-mail: [icdl@teri.res.in](mailto:icdl@teri.res.in) Web: [www.teriin.org/events/icdl](http://www.teriin.org/events/icdl)

23–26 February 2010. Rome, Italy.  
**11th International ISKO Conference.** *Theme:* Paradigms and conceptual systems in knowledge organization.  
*Contacts:* Dr. Fulvio Mazzocchi, National Research Council. Institute for Complex Systems, Montelibretti Section, via Salaria Km 29,300, CP 10, 00015 Monterotondo Stazione (RM), Italy OR Dr. Claudio Gnoli, University of Pavia. Science and Technology Library, via Ferrata 1, 27100 Pavia, Italy. E-mail: [rome2010@mate.unipv.it](mailto:rome2010@mate.unipv.it) Web: <http://www.iskoi.org/rome2010/>

15–16 March 2010. Gold Coast, Australia.

#### **Somerset International Conference for Librarians and Teachers.**

15–16 March 2010. Gold Coast, Australia. *Theme:* Reading Locally, Learning Globally – creating a universal experience.

*Further information:* Andrew J Stark, Conference Director, Somerset College, Mudgeeraba, QLD, Australia. Tel/Fax: +61 (0) 7 5530 5458. Email: [astark@somerset.qld.edu.au](mailto:astark@somerset.qld.edu.au)

2–4 May 2010. Oslo, Norway.

#### **Joint Technical Symposium 2010.**

*Theme:* Digital challenges and digital opportunities in audiovisual archiving.

*Further information:* George L. Abbott, Librarian Emeritus, Syracuse University Library, 311 Stonecrest Drive, Syracuse, NY 13214-2432, USA. E-mail: [glabbott@syr.edu](mailto:glabott@syr.edu) JTS 2010 website: [jts2010.org](http://jts2010.org)

26–28 May 2010. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

#### **17th World Congress on Information Technology 2010.**

*Theme:* Challenges of Change.  
*Further information:* [www.wcit2010.com/](http://www.wcit2010.com/) *Contact:* [info@wcit2010.org](mailto:info@wcit2010.org)

10–15 August 2010. Göteborg, Sweden.

#### **IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 76th IFLA General Conference and Council.**

*Theme:* Open access to knowledge – promoting sustainable progress. [NOTE CHANGE OF DATES, VENUE AND THEME]  
*Further information from:* IFLA Headquarters, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 70 314 0884. Fax: +31 70 383 4827.

E-mail: [ifla@ifla.org](mailto:ifla@ifla.org). Website: [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

22–24 September 2010. Ankara, Turkey.

#### **2nd International Symposium on Information Management in a Changing World.**

*Theme:* The impact of technological convergence and social networks on information management.

*Further information:* <http://by2010.bilgiyonetimi.net/english.html>

### 2011

13–18 August 2011. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

#### **IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Council.**

*Theme:* Libraries beyond libraries: integration, innovation and information for all.

*Further details:* IFLA Headquarters, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 70 314 0884. Fax: +31 70 383 4827. E-mail: [ifla@ifla.org](mailto:ifla@ifla.org). OR Puerto Rico National Committee, IFLA 2011, San Juan, Puerto Rico. E-mail [ifla2011.puertorico@upr.edu](mailto:ifla2011.puertorico@upr.edu) OR [executivesecretariat@acuril.org](mailto:executivesecretariat@acuril.org)

2011 Ireland, Dublin, 24–29 July; 2012 Canada ; 2013 Denmark, Århus; 2014 Austria, Vienna; 2015 USA, New York

#### **International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML).**

Forthcoming conferences.

*Further information:* <http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences> or e-mail Roger Flury, AML Secretary General at: [roger.flury@natlib.govt.nz](mailto:roger.flury@natlib.govt.nz)

### SOMMAIRES

Agnese Perrone. **Electronic Book Collection Development in Italy: a case study.** [Le développement des collections de livres électroniques en Italie : une étude de cas.]

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 305–312

Cet article rend compte des résultats d'un projet de recherche sur la façon dont les bibliothécaires des universités gèrent l'intégration des collections de livres électroniques dans le fonds de leurs bibliothèques. Il s'intéresse également aux critères de sélection et aux problèmes de développement des collections. En toile de fond à cette étude, les bibliothèques universitaires italiennes, qui se consacrent depuis peu à des projets de développement de collections de livres électroniques, ainsi que l'offre de livres électroniques italiens.

David Beno. **Internet Use in Israeli Universities: a case study.** [L'utilisation d'Internet dans les universités israéliennes : une étude de cas.]

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 313–321

Cet article présente les résultats d'une enquête menée en 2005–2006 sur l'importance de l'utilisation des ressources numériques par les étudiants et les chercheurs dans cinq universités israéliennes, ainsi que le rapport entre l'utilisation des ressources d'information électroniques mises à disposition par les bibliothèques universitaires d'une part et celle du réseau Web de surface d'autre part. Près de 80 pour cent des personnes interrogées ont une fréquence d'utilisation élevée à très élevée du Web de surface pour chercher des informations pour leurs études ou recherches. Par contraste, 28 pour cent seulement des personnes interrogées indiquent une utilisation élevée à très élevée des revues universitaires électroniques, 40 pour cent une utilisation

élevée à très élevée des bases de données numériques, et 13 pour cent seulement une utilisation élevée à très élevée des livres électroniques. Une situation dans laquelle les universitaires utilisent deux à trois fois plus fréquemment le Web de surface que les sources d'information numériques plus sérieuses mises à disposition par leurs bibliothèques signale un grave problème en ce qui concerne la qualité des informations utilisées, problème qui peut fortement nuire à la qualité et à la crédibilité des recherches basées sur ces sources. Les conclusions de l'enquête sont inquiétantes dans la mesure où les informations du Web de surface ne sont pas fiables et ne font pas autorité. L'état actuel des recherches n'indique pas ce qui incite les étudiants et les chercheurs à dépendre si fortement des informations du Web de surface pour effectuer leurs recherches, mais on peut raisonnablement penser que ceci est principalement dû à la facilité d'utilisation et à la convivialité des moteurs de recherche Internet.

Françoise Lefebvre-Danset. **Libraries in Palestine.** [Les bibliothèques en Palestine.]

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 322–334

Pendant plusieurs années, des programmes décentralisés de coopération avec des villes, des universités et des comités palestiniens ont proliféré dans le but d'aider à déployer un réseau de bibliothèques dans une région constamment menacée. En se faisant l'écho de ces initiatives multiples qui impliquent de nombreux bibliothécaires français, Françoise Danset donne une évaluation provisoire d'un exemple significatif de solidarité professionnelle internationale.

Hossein Noorani and Heidar Mokhtari. **Green Gift Plan:**

**building small libraries in public places of Mazandaran Province, Iran.** [Le projet Green Gift Plan : la construction de petites bibliothèques dans des lieux publics dans la province iranienne de Mazandaran.]

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 335–340

Étant donné le faible taux de lecture de livres en Iran et le dédain pour les aptitudes de lecture dans la vie quotidienne, des projets et des programmes novateurs ont été mis en place en vue de mettre les livres à la portée du public, de présenter les livres aux citoyens comme des véhicules primordiaux d'information et de définir les habitudes de lecture comme une nécessité dans la vie contemporaine. Le projet Green Gift Plan (GGP), axé sur la construction de petites bibliothèques dans certains lieux publics et lieux de travail (par ex. coiffeurs pour homme, cabinets dentaires ou médicaux, instituts de beauté pour femmes) dans la province iranienne de Mazandaran, a pour but d'améliorer la lecture parmi la population en amenant les livres dans leur communauté. Il met aussi l'accent sur les responsabilités sociales des bibliothécaires. L'article décrit les dispositions et les objectifs de ce projet ainsi que sa mise en oeuvre, et fait des suggestions pour la poursuite du projet et la mise en place de projets similaires.

Bhaskar Mukherjee. **Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000–2007): A bibliometric study.** [Revue de la Société américaine des sciences et technologies de l'information (2000–2007) : une étude bibliométrique.]

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 341–358

Depuis 1950, la *Revue de la Société américaine des sciences*

*et technologies de l'information* (JASIST) a joué un rôle vital dans la diffusion d'articles d'érudition sur les sciences bibliothécaires et de l'information. Cet article présente les résultats d'une étude bibliométrique d'articles publiés dans la revue JASIST de 2000 à 2007. Il examine la répartition des articles sous diverses rubriques, y compris le type d'auteur et la nature de la collaboration, la répartition géographique des articles, la nature des références citées et des citations,

les auteurs prolifiques et les auteurs très fréquemment cités. Les données ont été rassemblées en utilisant le Web of Science et analysées à l'aide de Microsoft Excel. Les résultats pour la période examinée indiquent des taux de publication inégaux et montrent que les articles ont constitué la principale forme de publication. Le type d'auteurs des articles montre une tendance à la collaboration, des auteurs de 47 pays ayant contribué à des articles. La répartition par pays

révèle que le plus grand nombre de contributions ont été faites par des auteurs américains, suivis par des auteurs britanniques. De 2000 à 2007, le nombre de références citées par article a augmenté, alors que les articles cités ont diminué au cours de cette même période. Les résultats suggèrent qu'il faut que des articles aient été publiés depuis plus de deux ans avant de faire l'objet d'un nombre approprié de citations.

### ZUSAMMENFASSUNGEN

Agnese Perrone. **Electronic Book Collection Development in Italy: a case study. [Die Entwicklung der elektronischen Bücherbestände in Italien: eine Fallstudie.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 305–312

Dieser Artikel berichtet über die Ergebnisse eines Forschungsprojekts, wobei festgestellt werden sollte, in welcher Weise Hochschulbibliothekare mit der Integration der elektronischen Büchersammlungen in ihren Bibliotheksbeständen umgehen; dabei geht die Autorin schwerpunktmäßig auf die Auswahlkriterien und die Schwierigkeiten im Zusammenhang mit der Entwicklung der fraglichen Bestände ein. Den Hintergrund hierzu liefern die Hochschulbibliotheken in Italien, die sich in den letzten Jahren im Rahmen entsprechender Projekte stark um die Entwicklung der elektronischen Bücherbestände bemüht haben, und auch die digitalen E-Book-Veröffentlichungen elektronischer Bücher in Italien.

David Beno. **Internet Use in Israeli Universities: a case study. [Die Nutzung des Internets an den Universitäten in Israel: eine Fallstudie.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 313–321

Dieser Beitrag präsentiert die Ergebnisse einer in den Jahren 2005 bis 2006 durchgeführten Umfrage bezüglich der Nutzungshäufigkeit digitaler Ressourcen seitens der Studenten und Forscher an fünf Universitäten in Israel; zudem geht der Autor auf die relative Nutzungsintensität der von den Hochschulbibliotheken bereitgestellten autorisierten elektronischen Informationsquellen einerseits im Vergleich zum Surface Web andererseits ein. Etwa 80 Prozent der Befragten verzeichneten bei der Informationssuche für ihr Studium oder ihre Forschung nach eigener Angabe eine hohe beziehungsweise sehr hohe Nutzungshäufigkeit des Surface Web. Im Gegensatz dazu gaben nur etwa 28 Prozent der Befragten eine starke oder sehr starke Nutzung der akademischen elektronischen Zeitschriften an, 40 Prozent beriefen sich stark oder sehr stark auf die Nutzung digitaler Datenbanken und nur etwa 13 Prozent meldeten eine starke oder sehr starke Nutzung elektronischer Bücher (E-Books). Wenn allerdings Akademiker das Surface Web zwei- oder dreimal häufiger verwenden als die maßgeblicheren digitalen Informationsquellen, die ihnen ihre Bibliothek zur Verfügung stellt, ergibt sich hier ein erhebliches Problem in Bezug auf die Qualität der verwendeten Informationen, die

die Qualität und Glaubwürdigkeit der darauf basierenden Forschung stark beeinträchtigen kann. Die Ergebnisse dieser Umfrage sind insofern bedenklich, als viele der Informationen des Surface Web weder verlässlich noch maßgeblich sind. Die aktuelle Forschung ergibt keinen Hinweis darauf, was die Studenten und Forscher dazu veranlasst, sich im Rahmen ihrer Forschung in einem so erheblichen Umfang auf die Informationen aus dem Surface Web zu verlassen; man kann jedoch vermutlich davon ausgehen, dass dies im Wesentlichen auf die Leichtigkeit und den Komfort des Umgangs mit den Internet-Suchmaschinen zurückzuführen ist.

Françoise Lefebvre-Danset. **Libraries in Palestine. [Büchereien in Palästina.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 322–334

Mehrere Jahre lang sind in Palästina von den Städten, Kommunen und Universitäten dezentralisierte Kooperationsprogramme ins Leben gerufen worden, um dazu beizutragen, ein Netzwerk von Bibliotheken in einem ständig bedrohten Gebiet zu errichten. Als Nachklang dieser mehrfachen Initiativen, an denen auch viele französische Bibliothekare beteiligt

waren, bietet Françoise Danset eine vorläufige Einschätzung eines bedeutsamen Beispiels für die internationale Solidarität unter Professionals.

Hossein Noorani und Heidar Mokhtari. **Green Gift Plan: building small libraries in public places of Mazandaran Province, Iran. [Green Gift Plan: Die Errichtung kleiner Bibliotheken an öffentlichen Orten in der Provinz Mazandaran im Iran.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 335–340

Angesichts der geringen Lesebereitschaft für Bücher im Iran und der Gleichgültigkeit in Bezug auf die Lesefähigkeit im täglichen Leben sind eine Reihe innovativer Pläne und Programme ins Leben gerufen worden, um der Öffentlichkeit die Bücher nahezubringen, die Bürger mit den Büchern als wichtigen Informationsträgern bekannt zu machen und die Lesegewohnheit als eine Notwendigkeit für das tägliche Leben in der heutigen Zeit zu etablieren. Ziel des so genannten Green Gift Plan (GGP), bei dem es schwerpunktmäßig um die Errichtung kleiner Bibliotheken an einigen öffentlichen Orten und Arbeitsstellen (beispielsweise beim Friseur, beim Zahnarzt oder in der Arztpraxis sowie in Kosmetiksalons für Frauen) in der Provinz

Mazandaran im Iran geht, war es, die Lesebereitschaft der Menschen durch die Einbindung der Bücher in die Gesellschaft zu verbessern. Zudem betont dieser Plan die soziale Verantwortung der Bibliothekare. Der Beitrag beschreibt das Umfeld, die Zielsetzungen und die Implementierung dieses Plans und enthält auch einige Vorschläge zur weiteren Fortsetzung des genannten Plans sowie zur Implementierung weiterer ähnlicher Pläne.

Bhaskar Mukherjee. **Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000–2007): a bibliometric study. [Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000–2007): eine bibliometrische Studie.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 341–358

Das Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST) hat seit 1950 eine wichtige Rolle bei der Veröffentlichung wissenschaftlicher Artikel in der Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft gespielt. Der vorliegende Artikel präsentiert die Ergebnisse einer bibliometrischen Studie, die sich auf Artikel stützt, die zwischen 2000 und 2007 im JASIST publiziert worden sind. Dabei schlüsselt er die Beiträge nach diversen Aspekten auf,

wobei beispielsweise auch das Urheberschaftsmuster und die Art der Zusammenarbeit, die geographische Verteilung der Artikel, die Art der zitierten und zitierenden Literaturhinweise sowie produktive beziehungsweise oft zitierte Autoren berücksichtigt werden. Die Datenerfassung erfolgt über das Web of Science und die Analyse mit Microsoft Excel. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass die Publikationsrate innerhalb des Erfassungszeitraums nicht gleichmäßig war und dass die Artikelform die häufigste Publikationsform darstellte. Bei der Urheberschaft in Bezug auf die Artikel ist eine gewisse Tendenz zur Zusammenarbeit zu verzeichnen; insgesamt haben Autoren aus 47 Ländern Artikel beigetragen. Die Aufschlüsselung nach Ländern zeigt, dass die meisten Beiträge von Autoren aus den USA stammten, gefolgt vom Vereinigten Königreich von Großbritannien und Nordirland. Die Zahl der in den einzelnen Artikeln zitierten Quellenangaben hat in den Jahren 2000 bis 2007 zugenommen; wohingegen die Artikel selbst innerhalb des gleichen Zeitraums weniger oft zitiert wurden. Dies ist als Hinweis darauf zu verstehen, dass die Publikation der Artikel mehr als zwei Jahre zurückliegen muss, bevor sie von anderen Autoren in angemessenem Umfang als Textbelege herangezogen werden.

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## RESÚMENES

Agnese Perrone. **Electronic Book Collection Development in Italy: a case study. [El desarrollo de colecciones de libros electrónicos en Italia: un caso práctico.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 305–312

En este documento se exponen los resultados de un proyecto de investigación que tiene por objeto analizar el método que siguen los bibliotecarios académicos para gestionar la integración de las colecciones de libros electrónicos

en sus bibliotecas. Dicho estudio se centra en los criterios de selección y en las cuestiones relacionadas con el desarrollo de las colecciones. El trabajo de fondo está representado por las bibliotecas académicas italianas que han participado recientemente en proyectos de desarrollo de colecciones de libros electrónicos, así como por la oferta editorial de libros electrónicos en Italia.

David Beno. **Internet Use in Israeli Universities: a case study. [Uso**

**de Internet en las universidades israelíes: un caso práctico.]**

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 313–321

En este documento se presentan los resultados de una encuesta llevada a cabo en 2005 y 2006 sobre el uso de los recursos digitales por parte de estudiantes e investigadores de cinco universidades de Israel, así como la tasa de utilización de los recursos autorizados de información electrónica que facilitan las bibliotecas académicas y la Web

superficial. Cerca del 80% de los encuestados afirma recurrir a la Web superficial con una frecuencia elevada o muy elevada para buscar información que utilizan en sus estudios o investigaciones. Por el contrario, sólo cerca del 28% de los encuestados reconoce utilizar con una frecuencia elevada o muy elevada las publicaciones electrónicas académicas, un 40% utiliza bases de datos digitales con una frecuencia elevada o muy elevada y sólo cerca del 13% utiliza libros electrónicos con dicha frecuencia. El hecho de que los académicos utilicen la Web superficial con una frecuencia dos o tres veces superior a las fuentes de información digital más acreditadas que suministran sus bibliotecas señala un grave problema en lo referente a la calidad de la información que utilizan, pudiendo afectar gravemente a la calidad y la credibilidad de la investigación que se basa en ella. Las conclusiones del estudio son preocupantes, ya que gran parte de la información que se publica en la Web superficial no es fiable o no está debidamente acreditada. El estudio actual no señala los motivos por los que estudiantes e investigadores recurren con tanta frecuencia a la información publicada en la Web superficial para sus trabajos, pero cabe suponer que se debe principalmente a la facilidad y comodidad que proporcionan los motores de búsqueda.

Françoise Lefebvre-Danset. **Libraries in Palestine. [Las bibliotecas en Palestina.]** IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 322-334

Durante varios años han proliferado los programas de cooperación descentralizados en las ciudades, municipios y universidades de Palestina cuyo propósito es contribuir a la puesta en marcha de una red de bibliotecas en esta

zona sometida a una amenaza constante. Françoise Danset ofrece una perspectiva de las numerosas iniciativas que se están llevando a cabo, en las que intervienen muchos bibliotecarios franceses, y aporta una valoración provisional de lo que viene a ser un ejemplo significativo de solidaridad internacional a escala profesional.

Hossein Noorani y Heidar Mokhtari. **Green Gift Plan: building small libraries in public places of Mazandaran Province, Iran. [El Plan Green Gift: creación de pequeñas bibliotecas en lugares públicos de la provincia iraní de Mazandaran.]** IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 335-340

Dado el reducido índice de lectura de libros en Irán y la indiferencia ante las habilidades de lectura en la vida cotidiana, los innovadores planes y programas destinados a acercar los libros al público presentan la lectura como la principal forma de acceder a la información, y proclaman el hábito de lectura como una necesidad para la vida cotidiana. El Plan Green Gift (GGP) tiene por objeto crear pequeñas bibliotecas en ciertos lugares públicos y entornos de trabajo (por ejemplo, barberías, consultas de dentistas o médicos y salones de belleza) en la provincia iraní de Mazandaran, con el propósito de mejorar las habilidades de lectura acercando los libros a la sociedad. También hace especial hincapié en las responsabilidades sociales de los bibliotecarios. En este documento se describe el escenario, los objetivos y la aplicación de este plan, y realiza propuestas para darle continuidad y poner en marcha otros planes similares.

Bhaskar Mukherjee. **Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology**

(2000-2007): A bibliometric study. [Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000-2007): un estudio bibliométrico.]

IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 341-358

El Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST) ha desempeñado una función primordial en la difusión de artículos académicos sobre biblioteconomía desde 1950. En este documento se presentan los resultados de un estudio bibliométrico de los artículos publicados en el JASIST desde 2000 hasta 2007. También se examina la distribución de documentos en distintos apartados, incluidos el modelo de autoría y la clase de colaboración, la distribución geográfica de los artículos, el carácter de las referencias que se citan en los documentos y que citan a otros documentos, autores prolíficos y autores mencionados con mucha frecuencia. Los datos se recopilaron utilizando Web of Science y se analizaron con Microsoft Excel. Los resultados indican que, durante el período de prueba, la tasa de publicación fue desigual y que los artículos eran los elementos de publicación más habituales. El modelo de autoría tiende a ser la colaboración, y autores de 47 países aportaron artículos. La distribución por países revela que los autores estadounidenses, seguidos de los británicos, eran los que más artículos habían aportado. El número de referencias citadas por artículo aumentó entre 2000 y 2007, mientras que, durante el mismo período, se redujo el número de veces en que se citaban artículos. Los resultados ponen de manifiesto que, para que los artículos sean citados un número de veces adecuado, es necesario que se hayan publicado al menos dos años antes.

### Рефераты статей

Агнезе Перроне. **Electronic Book Collection Development in Italy: a case study.** [Развитие электронных библиотек в Италии: исследование проблемы.] IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 305–312

В докладе сообщается о результатах научно-исследовательского проекта, целью которого было изучение того, как библиотекари в академических библиотеках справляются с процессом интеграции коллекций электронных книг в общее библиотечное собрание, при этом основное внимание уделялось критериям отбора и вопросам расширения коллекции. Справочная информация предоставляется академическими библиотеками Италии, которые в последнее время принимали участие в проектах в области развития коллекций электронных книг, а также итальянскими издательствами, предлагающими к продаже книги в электронном виде.

Давид Бено. **Internet Use in Israeli Universities: a case study.** [Использование интернета в университетах Израиля: исследование проблемы.] IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 313–321

В докладе представлены результаты исследования, которое проводилось в 2005–2006 гг. в пяти университетах Израиля. В данном случае речь идет о вопросах расширения использования электронных источников информации студентами и научными сотрудниками и соотношения использования официальных источников электронной информации, предоставляемой академическими библиотеками, и сети интернета. Около 80 процентов респондентов сообщили о высокой или очень высокой частоте использования сети интернета для поиска информации, необходимой для их учебы или исследовательской деятельности. И напротив, только около 28 процентов респондентов сообщили о высокой или очень

высокой частоте использования академических электронных журналов, 40 процентов о высокой или очень высокой частоте использования электронных баз данных, и всего лишь 13 процентов о высокой или очень высокой частоте использования электронных книг. Ситуация, при которой научные сотрудники используют сеть интернета в два или в три раза чаще, чем более достоверные электронные источники информации, которые предоставляются их библиотеками, свидетельствует о серьезной проблеме, связанной с качеством используемой информации, и подобная ситуация может нанести значительный ущерб качеству и достоверности такого исследования. Результаты исследования вызывают беспокойство, поскольку значительная часть получаемой в сети интернета информации ненадежной и недостоверной. Настоящее исследование не указывает на то, что является причиной такой серьезной зависимости студентов и научных сотрудников от сети интернета в поиске информации для их исследований, но естественно предположить, что это является следствием удобства и легкости пользования поисковых машин интернета.

Франсуазе Лефевр-Дансе. **Libraries in Palestine.** [Библиотеки в Палестине.] IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 322–334

Вот уже несколько лет появляются децентрализованные программы сотрудничества с Палестиной – в городах, учебных центрах, университетах – с целью помочь развертыванию сети библиотек в регионе, находящемся под постоянной угрозой. Вторя этим многочисленным инициативам, в которые вовлечены многие французские библиотекари, Франсуазе Дансе представляет предварительную оценку показательного примера международной профессиональной солидарности.

Хосейн Ноорани и Хейдар Мокхтари. **Green Gift Plan: building small libraries in public places of Mazandaran Province, Iran.** [План Зеленый Подарок: создание небольших библиотек в общественных местах провинции Мазандаран, Иран.] IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 335–340

Принимая во внимание низкий уровень чтения книг в Иране и пренебрегая навыками чтения в повседневной жизни, инновационные планы и программы, целью которых является ознакомление населения с книгами, знакомят граждан с книгами как с важнейшим источником информации и создают привычку читать как необходимую составляющую современной жизни. План Зеленый Подарок (GGP), концентрирующий внимание на создании небольших библиотек в некоторых общественных и рабочих местах (таких как парикмахерская, магазин, приемная стоматолога или врача, косметические салоны) в провинции Мазандаран, Иран, имеют целью улучшение навыков чтения среди населения путем ознакомления общества с книгами. Это также подчеркивает социальную ответственность библиотечарей. Доклад описывает составляющие, цели и внедрение этого плана и делает предложение о продлении плана и внедрении других подобных планов.

Бхаскар Мукхерjee. **Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (2000–2007): A bibliometric study.** Журнал Американского Общества Информационной Науки и Технологии (2000–2007): библиометрическое исследование.] IFLA Journal 35 (2009) No. 4. pp. 341–358

Журнал Американского Общества Информационной Науки и Технологии (JASIST) играет важнейшую роль в распространении научных статей в библиотеках и информационной сети с 1950 года. Настоящий

доклад представляет результаты библиометрического исследования статей, опубликованных в JASIST с 2000 по 2007 год. В нем рассматривается распространение работ в различных направлениях, включая авторские образцы и природу сотрудничества, географическое распространение статей, природу цитат и справочных ссылок, плодovitых и часто цитируемых авторов. Мы собрали данные, пользуясь информационной научной сетью, и обработали их с

помощью Microsoft Excel. Результаты исследования показывают, что в течение исследовательского периода уровень публикаций был скачкообразным и что наиболее частой формой публикаций были статьи. Общая тенденция авторства статей склоняется в сторону соавторства, при этом статьи были написаны авторами из 47 стран. Что касается распространения по странам, то самое большое количество статей было написано авторами из США,

за которыми следуют авторы из Объединенного Королевства. Количество ссылок, процитированных в каждой из статей, увеличилось за период, начиная с 2000 по 2007 год, в то время как количество использования цитат из исследуемых статей за этот же период сократилось. Результаты показывают, что для того, чтобы выдержки из статей использовались в адекватном количестве, со времени их опубликования должно пройти более двух лет.