



library services to
newsletter
multicultural populations

No. 1

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Chair's Column



Dear friends and Colleagues!
 The first IFLA Congress in South America was a big success, not only for the main Congress but indeed also a big success for the Multicultural Section; we had almost 100

participants from 19 different countries attending the Section Workshop.

I would like to give my gratitude to Christine McDonald and Carmen Madrid Vilchez for all their work and effort bringing such excellent speakers together, speakers from all over the world – from such different cultural and geographic places as Argentina in South America to Lapland in the Northern part of Europe, a distance of more than 12941 km (8041 miles).

The topics of the workshop were very important and of great interest, different aspects and problems were discussed with big empathy and enthusiasm such as - maintaining languages, cultural diversity and integrity.

At the end of the day it was clear to me and other members from the Multicultural Committee that there is a lot work to do and topics to be discussed in the field of preserving the cultural identity of indigenous people. This area still needs attention and support and should therefore be a focus point in the Strategic Plan for the Multicultural Standing Committee. ■

Editor's Note



Welcome to the fall 2004 issue of the Library Services to Multicultural Populations newsletter. I hope you enjoy this issue – we have lots of highlights. For new s of our section's activities, please check out:

- Our chair's column – Jane Driesig provides an overview of our last conference and workshop
- Meet one of our new members – on page 2 you can be introduced to Ann Katrin Ursberg from Sweden
- If you missed the Buenos Aires conference – on page 3 read Christine McDonald's article that gives an overview of our Section's workshop on library service to indigenous populations
- Our Guidelines are now available in Italian – see page 2 by Domenico Ciccarello for the details

Members of our Section have contributed some interesting articles:

- Robert Pestell - on page 3 gives us the ups and downs of the Belgrade Book Fair (and the zoo!)
- Clara Chu - on page 4 provides a convincing argument on the need for multicultural library services
- Ekaterina Nikonorova - on page 5 describes an international conference held at the Russian State Library in 2003 with attendance from 34 countries.

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

The newsletter, our strategic plan, the minutes of our meetings and other valuable information is all available there.

Once again, I encourage you to send material for the next issue of our newsletter. Share your experiences, your expertise, and your challenges in providing library service to our diverse communities. ■

The Newsletter is the official publication of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations.
 The Newsletter is made available to all Section members as a benefit of membership.
 Articles for publication and/or requests for information should be sent to Jane Pyper at jpyper@tpl.toronto.on.ca

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NEWS FROM LIBRARY SERVICES TO MULTICULTURAL POPULATION SECTION

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Ann-Katrin Ursberg

I graduated in Literature and Language Science at the University of Lund, with the prospect of becoming a high school teacher in Literature. By chance I hopped into a short-time library vacancy – and got stuck!

A Diploma in Library Science was followed by employment at a small Public Library, where I got the opportunity to specialize in working with library users of dozens of nationalities, pouring into one of the biggest refugee camps for asylum seekers in Sweden. A period of work in the Third World involved new experiences of consulting and staff training tasks in a multilingual society.

Lately I have been involved in the Swedish Library Association, specifically as the Chair of the Multicultural Committee. ■

GUIDELINES IN ITALIAN

By - Dominick Ciccarello

A new Italian edition of the IFLA Guidelines has been published!!

Under the title "*Linee guida per i servizi multiculturali nelle biblioteche pubbliche*", they were printed in October 2003, thanks to Alberta Dellepiane and Adriana Pietrangeli, from the Berio Library (Genua), who translated the English text. The book, consisting of more than a hundred pages, with a smart cover coloured in black and orange, was edited by the Public Libraries Committee of the Italian Library Association (AIB), gaining significant help from the Multicultural Libraries Working Group.

AIB succeeded in having much more content added to the printed publication than the IFLA Guidelines alone. "*Linee guida per i servizi multiculturali nelle biblioteche pubbliche*" includes a brief introduction, two short essays, the Multicultural Group Manifesto (*Per la biblioteca multiculturale*), a report of good experiences in Prato and Turin Library Services, along with an appendix of documents describing some of international best practices, an accurate bibliography and a list of useful websites.

So far, presentations have already been held during mayor conferences and training seminars in Rome, Palermo, Trento, Bolzano, Saint Vincent, Perugia. The publication was also very welcomed and a lot appreciated last March in London, Charing Cross Library, during last Mid-Year Meeting of our IFLA Section. The Italian text of the Guidelines will be available very soon on IFLANET. And it

Librarians worldwide!

Join The Multicultural Bazaar Swap and Shop and Celebration of the 25th anniversary of IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations!

Grab the opportunity to market your library materials on multicultural issues and pick up a variety of marketing and publicity materials featuring multicultural services and issues from libraries all over the world. Meet librarians from the north and south, east and west and exchange ideas, knowledge and practice. Taste food from a variety of countries including typical Norwegian food!

Does this sound appealing to you?

Reserve time on
World Library and Information Congress:
71st IFLA General Conference and Council
"Libraries – A voyage of discovery"

in
Oslo, Norway August 14th - 18th 2005
and start collecting the multicultural material from your
library!

Contact: Kirsten Leth Nielsen (kirstenn@deichman.no)
+ 47 23432838 ■

is nice to see that news from the IFLA MCULTP Section are being now regularly updated (with some translations into Italian) on AIB-WEB, the website of the Italian Library Association (see links below).

AIB. Gruppo di lavoro sulle biblioteche multiculturali
<http://www.aib.it/aib/commiss/mc/mc.htm>

Sezione IFLA sui Servizi bibliotecari alle società multiculturali (in AIB-WEB)
<http://www.aib.it/aib/cen/ifla/slsmp.htm>



FROM THE GLOBAL VILLAGE TO THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGE: THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARY IN PRESERVING THE CULTURAL IDENTITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

By- Christine McDonald

The IFLA Section on Services to Multicultural Populations' Program at the IFLA Annual Conference in Buenos Aires was held on August 25, 2004, **From the Global Village to the Indigenous Village: The Role of the Library in Preserving the Cultural Identity of Indigenous Peoples** was coordinated by section members Christine McDonald, Carmen Madrid and Clara Chu, all fluent speakers of Spanish. The program focused on libraries throughout the world that are working with indigenous populations or contemplating new initiatives in efforts to preserve indigenous culture through programs, archives, computer applications, language revitalization, research, conservation and reclamation of materials, outreach, community development and other services. The programs emphasized model programs which featured collaborative and local efforts.



Participants in the IFLA Section on Services to Multicultural Population Workshop, IFLA Conference Buenos Aires
The people in the photo are: Back Row: Jane Dresig, Loriene Roy, Christine McDonald, Peter Sarri, Edgardo Civalero. Front Row: Jean Whitehorse and Ceasar Castro.

Photo courtesy of Christine McDonald

The first speaker, Dr. Loriene Roy, Professor of the School of Information and for the Center for Women's Studies at the University of Texas at Austin is a noted authority in Native American Librarianship. She has published over 60 articles, co-authored a book and is a past president of the American Indian Library Association and a current American Library Association Councilor. She is enrolled as a member of the White Earth Reservation, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Pembina Band. Dr. Roy's presentation, **Libraries on Tribal Homelands**

as Multi-purpose Facilities dealt with the issues of Native communities establishing libraries that deal with general library issues and in addition the issues of cultural documentation, Native language revitalization, reclaiming cultural materials, and collaborations focused on community mapping and technology training, tribal archives and community. She described and illustrated through photos the work being done by many tribes throughout the west and southwest United States showing real life examples of successful tribal libraries.

Peter Sarri, a member of the Sámi Parliament and a resident of Jokkmokk, Sweden discussed the development of libraries and library services for the Sámi People in the Scandinavian Countries of Norway and Sweden titles "Sámi Library Activities in Sápmpi." Sarri explained that Sápmpi means the people, the language and the location. Although there are Sámi people in Finland and Russia, they are not included in the Sámi Parliament at this time because only European Union members are represented. The Sámi are related to the Inuit in the West. The Sámi share a common language, culture, traditions, flag, National Day and anthem. The first Sámi National Congress was held in 1917. In the 1905s, a municipal library in Karasjok, northern Norway started collecting books in the Sámi language. The government began funding collection development and in 2000, the Sámi Library was permanently established under the jurisdiction of the Sámi Parliament. With over 35,000 volumes, it functions as the Parliament's source for legal and public information, it preserves Sámi culture, language, traditions and currently serves as a public lending library for the Sámi peoples of Norway. With the assistance of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Sámi Library is developing Sámi characters for computers that can be used in libraries throughout Norway. In 1989, a bookmobile was established and has extended its area of operation to include Norway, Sweden and Finland. The Sámi Parliament has given the task to the Sámi Library Counselor to develop Sámi library services in Sweden. Future projects will be funded through the Sámi Parliament and through government grants from each country where the Sámi are located. After a meeting in New Mexico in 2003, Peter Sarri said the decision was made to form the Sámi Library Association in 2004 which is in progress.

Jean Whitehorse, Outreach Librarian at the New Mexico State Library, Crownpoint Training & Resource Center presented **Libraries: Tools for Education and Development within the Navajo Nation**. Whitehorse is the daughter of Navajo Code Talker Edmund Juan Henry Sr. She is a member of the Navajo tribe and the Towering House People Clan. In New Mexico, Whitehorse teaches Native Americans classes that are introducing computers into the communities of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico thus assisting Native people to reduce the digital divide. Cyber-sovereignty and emerging communication technology within the Navajo Nation are now a possibility. Using the Navajo rug as a metaphor Whitehorse built her talk around the connections she makes for her students

between weaving the Navajo rug and learning to use computers to make the instruction more meaningful to the Navajo. Funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have been used to introduce the Navajo to using computers in their everyday lives including their personal needs, business, education, language skills, recreation and entertainment. From her personal experiences with the Navajo, she explained the importance of Native libraries as community centers where technology is introduced in a non-threatening, useful way that directly relates to community needs including economic development, access to computers and software, preservation of language and culture.

Edgardo Civallero, who holds a Masters degree in Library Science and is involved in research at the National University of Córdoba, Argentina travelled all night by bus so he could participate with his presentation: "Indigenous Libraries: Utopia and Reality: Proposing an Argentine Model." Civallero explained the dilemma of trying to establish library services for indigenous peoples in a country that does not acknowledge the more than 12 indigenous ethnic groups that populated Argentina at first contact. Rather, the average Argentinian believes, explained Civallero, that Argentina was a vast unpopulated area when Europeans first arrived. He discussed the government sanctioned slaughter of indigenous peoples in Argentina since first contact. He envisioned library service for indigenous people in Argentina based on the specific needs of each community as determined by the community itself while respecting individual cultural richness, resources and involvement of the entire community without outside interference. Collections and services would reflect the oral culture, language, roles of women and elders and traditions of the indigenous groups. He is involved with several indigenous groups that are exploring the possibility of preserving their cultures through the establishment of community libraries.

César Augusto Castro Aliaga, who is a Permanent Board Member, Latin America and Caribbean Section (IFLA/LAC) chose as his topic: Intercultural Bilingual Education: A process that assists in the establishment of Indigenous Libraries in Latin America. Castro explained the emerging model in Peru came as a result of a meeting in Mexico in 2000 and one in Lima in 2002 on indigenous library services. The models discussed included the concept of schools that emphasized bilingual education with indigenous libraries supporting indigenous culture, language, traditions and preservation of the same. The model discussed includes community participation and he cited several model programs that have been successful in rallying indigenous community support in establishing libraries for their communities. The goals of the indigenous libraries were to help the community to gain knowledge and options via use of computers and technology based on community needs and to connect with other indigenous groups using technology. He cited several Amazonian indigenous

groups such as the Asháninka people in Perú whose leader spoke at IFLA, Berlin. Castro ended with a passionate acknowledgment that indigenous peoples have not been destroyed. Rather, they are thriving and determining the future of their communities based on new norms developed by the community with respect for ancient traditions.

The afternoon session was held at the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina which is devoted to the preservation of the culture of Argentina's indigenous peoples. The collections are modest and at the same time they represent all indigenous groups from the north, to the pampas, the Andean cordillera and south to Patagonia. Museum director, José Antonio Perez Goyano noted that the collections are expanding because of increased awareness of the need to preserve the artifacts of Argentina's indigenous groups. He took the group on a tour of the collections and archive after the final presentation, "The Library of Indigenous Culture in Argentina" by Judith Martinez Cuevas, Member of the Indigenous Movement of the Argentine Republic, National University of Luján. Cuevas discussed the fact that there were 17 million indigenous people in Argentina at first contact. The Argentine government has been a part of their destruction for centuries and current policies of neglect. She discussed a movement in Argentina that she has been involved with during the last 10 years to recover the history, culture, languages, traditions and oral traditions for peoples who have been marginalized in her country. ■

ARTICLES

BELGRADE BOOK FAIR

By - Robert Pestell



A relatively cheap way to visit the Belgrade Book Fair, once you are in Europe, of course, is to travel by train. The Slava Express train travels from Frankfurt to Belgrade, via Slovenia, Austria and Croatia. However, it does waste a day or two of your time, is numbingly boring after the first 5 hours, and sells just about the most expensive, and worst, cup of coffee in Europe.

The Belgrade Book Fair was once hailed as one of the largest Book Fairs in the world, rivalling Frankfurt and Bologna. Since the troubles, however, its role has diminished markedly, although efforts are being made to revive it. It still remains Serbia's largest cultural event, with some ½ million people from all over Serbia visiting the Fair.

Having arrived at the Belgrade railway station after a 12-hour journey from Ljubljana, the very helpful tourist information officer advised me not to use the expensive taxis at the station, but to hail a cab in the street. This is all very well, but in the rain and dark, with a very large suitcase, it wasn't the best idea. When I eventually managed to find a taxi, it was even less of a good idea, as I had to cram the suitcase and myself into the back of an ancient Yugo taxi, that shuddered and juddered its way to the hotel, and where the driver then demanded double the fare because I had a suitcase! At least it was cheap.

So, next morning, off to the Book Fair. "Catch the number 11 tram", the tourist lady had advised. After standing in line at the tram stop for 45 minutes, with every tram but number 11 having passed several times, I caught another taxi. Why do taxi drivers always say they know where you want to go, and then spend the next hour driving everywhere *but* where you want to go? And why do they refuse to look at a street map? However, 45 minutes later, we eventually found the Book Fair.

The Fair has lots of large buildings, with the two largest buildings hosting the Book Fair, and the others selling everything from biros to bookmobiles. Yes, there was a bookmobile from Belgrade City – but it was closed, unfortunately. Entry to the actual Book Fair halls was through a small entrance and corridor, where you shuffle along like a sardine in a can. Emerging into the first hall, you are met with a wall of noise, a wall of people, and a wall of hot air, with a cloud of cigarette smoke hovering overhead. The crowds of people were amazing. In particular, masses of school children lounged, stood, sat and blocked every available space. Being *the* cultural

event of the year, every school in Serbia sends hordes of disinterested students to the Fair. Why this is so, I cannot understand, as very few junior books were on display. As to safety! On the first day I visited, there were lots of doors that you could use to go out and have a breath of fresh air. On the second day, all of these were padlocked! The only exit was back to the main entrance through the very narrow corridor. This is a disaster waiting to happen.

The Book Fair, however, is very interesting. Unlike Frankfurt, which is mainly frequented by publishers, the Belgrade Fair consists of just about every bookshop in Serbia – although most offer the same books, and all at about a 10% to 15% discount. All the publishers are also represented, of course, and they also give the same discounts. Several bookshops in town, however, are also offering the same discount, so the Fair does not provide any real benefit to librarians hoping to obtain bargains. But, it does allow one to see all available Serbian publications. Several of the bookshops in town are outlets for particular publishers, and so you do not get the wider variety. There are no postal facilities at the Book Fair, so whatever you purchase has to be carried back into town. No credit cards can be used, so it is cash only. International visitors and exhibitors were not well represented this year, although some 'guest' exhibitors, such as the large Canadian stand, were very popular. I also remember stands for books in Macedonian, Croatian, Russian (quite expensive books) and Bosnian (although only 4 fiction books on display).

To sum up: I can really recommend the smoked trout and chillies, and the very tasty Serbian beer. I do not recommend the train journey or the taxis. The zoo is worth a visit, for its curiosity value. An amazing number of chickens and ducks running and waddling around: different types of dogs housed in little 'houses', which I think can be visited by children, as two small boys were sat with a dog in one of the 'houses' – however, the way one very large dog hurled itself at the bars, with fangs bared, when I was passing, leads me to think that it would be a very brave or very foolish person who would venture into their cage; a lone, very friendly ferret in a very large cage; and more Australian cockatiels and budgies than I've ever seen in one place! The Book Fair is quite interesting, but it would be very difficult to buy a quantity of books because of the sheer number of people and the difficulty of carrying them. I would say that it is far better to visit the bookshops in the city. (I had to return to Slovenia to catch my plane back to Australia, and had a look in Ljubljana's major bookshop, which has an excellent stock – but the Serbian books were about three times the price of those available in Belgrade). ■

Raison d'être for Multicultural Library Services

By: Clara M. Chu

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There is no denying that almost every nation around the globe has a multicultural population. The evidence is clear when one examines the sociodemographic data of each country) and sees the diversity in language, ethnicity, religion, among other variables. Furthermore, in a century with easier and faster modes of communication, and increased human migrations, nations are becoming even more multicultural. Our Section is cognizant of this and thus we are "striving to share [our] experience in library services to multicultural populations in view of the necessity to ensure that every member in our global society has access to a full range of library and information services." (IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section Website, <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s32/index.htm>). To this end the Section has published *Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services* (2nd edition, revised, 1998), which is available in eight languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish are available online, Japanese and Italian are available in print). However, these guidelines are only helpful if communities themselves recognize the multicultural nature of its user population and have decided to implement services responsive to its needs.

It is the purpose of this article to tackle this issue – convincing libraries to provide multicultural library services. The Section recognizes that it is important to identify arguments underlining the importance of multicultural library services and thus placed it on this past year's agenda. I have been thinking about these issues and proposed *Ten Reasons to Offer Multicultural Library Services* for the Section to consider at the Buenos Aires meeting this past August.

To begin I offer the following definition:

"Multicultural library services" (MLS) include both the provision of multicultural information to all types of library users and the provision of library services specifically targeted to traditionally underserved ethnocultural groups. Often we consider multicultural library services as mainly benefiting "minority" communities as it is these communities whose ethnocultural background is different from that of mainstream society and whose needs are often not or minimally addressed. Multicultural library services ensure equity in library and information services. However, multiculturalism refers to the make-up of a whole community so as such, the whole community should benefit from "multicultural library services." Thus, the other half of delivering multicultural library services is the provision of multicultural information that will benefit the entire user community. Members of a community can learn of each other's respective cultures, languages,

contributions to society, values, etc. The end result being increased understanding and communication.

Ten Reasons to Offer Multicultural Library Services

Multicultural library services should be offered for the following reasons:

- 1) A library's mission is to serve its community, which in many cases is multicultural or becoming increasingly culturally diverse.
- 2) Multicultural library services ensure equity of service and access to information.
- 3) In an era of globalization with more ease in transnational communication and travel, individuals need to learn about other cultures, languages, and peoples, which foster appreciation for different experiences and broaden one's outlook on life, locally and globally.
- 4) Information in languages and through channels accessible to diverse user communities enables their democratic participation in civil society.
- 5) Information about one's own heritage as well as that of others reinforces one's own culture and promotes understanding of other experiences and perspectives, respectively, and contributes in the development of a more harmonious society.
- 6) Information in languages and through channels appropriate to diverse user communities promotes multiple literacies, which facilitate the acquisition of new knowledge and skills to ensure equity of opportunity in all realms of civil society.
- 7) The world's knowledge, creative forms of expression, and cultural practices are documented in diverse formats and languages, thus, the offering of a multicultural collection should be made available for all to access.
- 8) Information to support learning about different forms of creative expression, work and problem solving lead to fresh insights and opinions which can result in novel ways to innovate, act and resolve situations.
- 9) Information about and for a library's multicultural community demonstrates to community members that they and their cultures are valued.
- 10) Libraries are spaces for intellectual and recreational engagement and libraries offering multicultural services and collections become a community space to bring people together.

Continues on Page 7

It is hoped that this list constitutes only ten of many more reasons underlying the important role that libraries play in bringing a community together, quenching a community's thirst for intellectual and recreational engagement, and supporting lifelong learning; all of which empower community members to achieve their potential and enact social change. The Section and I request your feedback (please send to cchu@ucla.edu) in the form of other reasons and/or ways to refine this list so we can consider them to potentially adopt as the Section's raison d'être for multicultural library services. ■

Culture: From information to knowledge

The Role of culture in the knowledge based society – Rumyantsev readings - 2003

By- Ekaterina Nikonorova

The international conference *Culture: from information to knowledge. The role of culture in the knowledge based society* that was held on April 7-10 2003 in the Russian State Library (RSL). This symposium was the main event of the Library in celebrating its 175th anniversary.

The attention of the participants of the conference was attracted to Russia's achievements in the field of preserving the cultural heritage and, information technologies implementation in libraries. They were presented to European information programmes in the sphere of culture whose results have already been applied or are intended to be applied both in Russia and in other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent states (CIS).

The conference discussed as well issues of globalizing research into bibliography and lore source aimed at opening up library stocks, archives and preserving the book historical heritage of Russia. Proper library problems came up for discussion at the sessions of the sections *New directions of research in library science and bibliography, Promising approaches towards library management, History of librarianship and libraries.* Considerable attention was paid to Count Rumyantsev, founder of Rumyantsev Museum and of the Russian State Library. Within the framework of the conference the symposium "Cultural traditions of the Russian State Library. N.P. Rumyantsev's contribution to the development of Slavonic cultures."

All in all 160 reports were heard at the conference. It was attended by 400 participants from 34 countries including Great Britain, Germany, India, Italy, China, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the USA, Finland the Czech Republic, Estonia, as well as countries of the CIS

– Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Uzbekistan. Russia was represented by specialists in various cities and regions, that is Vladivostok, Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Kemerovo and others.

IFLA President elect: K. Raseroka, attended the conference and delivered the report entitled: *Libraries for continuing literacy. Presidential theme for 2003 to 2005.*

She reminded the participants of the fact that the IFLA 2002 Glasgow conference the discussion *Bridging the digital divide* was organized. The task of the discussion was to promote introduction of the IFLA Core values into practice and to define the strategic steps which can be undertaken during the next presidential term 2003 to 2005.

One of the results of this discussion was reinterpretation of the content of the term *bridging the digital divide* embracing the creation of an environment in libraries and information centers that provides the representatives of diverse public groups with free equal access to information, freedom of expression as well as with possibility of taking a full-fledged part in the life of the society based on information and knowledge.

IFLA Secretary General R. Shimmon delivered the address entitled: *IFLA: a common voice of the library community* carrying forward and complementing these ideas. He drew the attention of the participants to the fact that we support the free flow of information according to the 19th article of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights stating that every man has the right to freedom of convictions and to freedom of expressing them, this right includes freedom of adhering to one's opinion without any hindrance and the freedom of looking for, obtaining, spreading information and ideas by any means irrespective of the state borders. In many aspects the ever growing accessibility of the modern technology is bringing this ideal nearer to the reality. Our voice is to be heard. There is no need for us to be afraid of the globalization concept in that mankind at least since the middle ages has realized that information, ideas, knowledge and culture itself are crossing national and regional boundaries.

IFLA leaders met with National Librarians from the CIS countries, they considered the question of libraries in new independent countries being able to enrich the IFLA activities and of participation in IFLA influencing the activities of national library communities.

Decision was taken to alter the organizational and legal form of the Library Assembly of Eurasia (LAE), a non-commercial body founded by National Libraries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Director of the Russian State Library, Victor Fedorov, was elected the LAE president for four years to come. ■
E. Nikonorova, Deputy Director General, Russian State Library



NEWS FROM IFLA

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for:

- IFLA President-elect
- Elected members of the Governing Board of IFLA
- Members of Section Standing Committees of IFLA are now invited.



The deadline for receipt of nominations will close on: Wednesday February 2, 2005.

Details have been posted by mail to all qualified Members of IFLA.

They are also available on IFLANET at:
<http://www.ifla.org/announce.htm>

All voting Members of IFLA who have paid their membership fees for 2004 and who are not in arrears are eligible to nominate for these positions and to vote in the subsequent elections. In addition, Personal Affiliates who have paid their fees for 2004 and are not in arrears are entitled to nominate for the positions of President-elect and the elected members of the Governing Board.

Ramachandran Rasu
Secretary General
October 2004

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/EVENTS

The 9th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply International Conference will take place in Tallinn, Estonia from September 20th to 23rd 2005. The theme will be "Making Library Collections Accessible Locally and Worldwide". Tallinn is the capital of the Republic of Estonia. The old town of Tallinn is among the best preserved medieval European cities and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The conference venue will be the Conference Centre of the National Library of Estonia. Along with the conference programme, the attendees will be able to visit Estonian libraries and enjoy a diverse social programme.

The call for papers and the list of conference subthemes is now available at the conference website at: <http://www.nlib.ee/ilds>. This website will also offer all new updates concerning the conference as well as background information on Tallinn and Estonia.

The 1st biannual ASIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONFERENCE (ALIC2004) <http://www.alic2004.org/> www.alic2004.org is being organized by the Thai Library Association and Asia Library News, to be held at the 5-star Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, <http://www.dusit.com/> www.dusit.com from November 21 to November 24, 2004. ALIC2004 is supported by UNESCO and IFLA.

The main objectives of the conference are to promote library and information services throughout the Asia-Pacific region in a rapidly changing digital and knowledge-based social environment, to address various issues that affect the library and information profession, and to provide a forum for librarians from the region and elsewhere to network and exchange ideas. ■