



## **Bibliography Section**

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### **Annual Report, 2007**

Prepared by

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#### **Mission**

The Bibliography Section is primarily concerned with the content, arrangement, production, dissemination and preservation of bibliographic information, especially (but not exclusively) where these pertain to national bibliographic services. It is also concerned with the promotion of the importance of the discipline of bibliography to library professionals in all types of libraries (not just national libraries), to publishers, distributors and retailers, and to end-users. While taking full account of technological possibilities, the Section is aware that such developments are not yet fully available in some areas of the world, and it will ensure that its solutions are not necessarily dependent on particular technologies. The Section is closely associated, where appropriate, with other Sections within the Division of Bibliographic Control. The Section seeks ways to cooperate with divisions and sections beyond Division IV.

#### **Membership and officers**

In 2007, ninety associations, institutions, and personal affiliates are currently members of the Section. There were eighteen full members and four corresponding members. Eight members rotated off the Standing Committee and were replaced by eight new members. The following nations were represented: China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Korea, Lithuania, Macedonia, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

In 2007, the Section was chaired by Unni Knutsen, Oslo University College, Norway; Beacher Wiggins, Library of Congress, USA, served as secretary/treasurer; and Claudia Werner, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany, served as information coordinator/Section Newsletter editor. During the Durban IFLA World Congress, Beacher Wiggins was elected the new chair and Christian Lupovici, Bibliotheque nationale de France, was elected the new secretary. Claudia Werner remained information coordinator/Section Newsletter editor.

### **Activities in 2007**

The Bibliography Section's work supports the following pillars and professional priorities:

*Pillars:* profession; members

*Professional priorities:* a) supporting the role of libraries in society; d) providing unrestricted access to information; f) promoting resource sharing; g) preserving our intellectual heritage; h) developing library professionals; i) promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices

The Section's meetings in Durban, South Africa, were productive, focusing on 1) updating its Strategic Plan; 2) reviewing the ongoing work of its Working Group on Guidelines for Electronic National Bibliographies; 3) assessing the Section's Durban Programme; and 4) using that assessment to plan for its Programmes in Quebec, Canada.

- 1) The Section's Strategic Plan and Goals for 2006-2007 were reviewed. The update included accomplishments to date under the goals of the Plan. The accomplishments reflected a busy and successful year. These goals were reaffirmed:

-- Extend the provision of universal bibliographic control by advocating and promoting the production of national bibliographies.

-- Improve the quality and consistency of bibliographic control by advocating implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Standards (ICNBS) and by developing specific guidelines to facilitate such implementation.

-- Publicize the work of the Section.

-- Promote membership in the Section and extend the geographic scope of representation on the Standing Committee.

1) The Section determined its direction for the next two years and crafted its Strategic Plan for 2008-2009. Four goals were identified:

-- Extend the provision of universal bibliographic control by advocating and promoting the production of national bibliographies.

-- Establish outreach to national bibliographic agencies.

-- Publicize the work of the Section

-- Promote membership in the Section

3) The Working Group on Electronic National Bibliographies, chaired by Maja Zumer, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, continued its work, making substantive progress on its work in developing *Guidelines* for the creation of Electronic National Bibliographies. To give better focus to the purpose of the Working Group, the name was changed to Working Group on National Bibliographies in the Digital Era. The new name reflects the Group's aim to 1) address inclusion of digital resources in national bibliographies; 2) address electronic national bibliographies; and 3) address general principles in creating national bibliographies. The Working Group's meeting in Durban focused on preparing for the final round of review and planning for the *Guidelines* prior to producing a version for worldwide review by the end of 2007. The *Guidelines* will incorporate information on the history and background of national bibliographies, uses and users, organizational structure, creating a general national bibliography, selection criteria for the inclusion of electronic resources, and cataloging levels. Hosted by Christian Lupovici and the Bibliotheque nationale de France, the Working Group had a constructive meeting in Paris, in February 2007, to continue its work between World Congresses. The Section is grateful to the IFLA Board for

financial support for this meeting. (Minutes of the Paris meeting will be posted under the Section on the IFLA website.) By the end of 2007, draft versions of all chapters had been prepared. The Section made concrete plans to collaborate with both the Classification & Indexing Section and the National Libraries Section in regards to the Working Group's Guidelines. This collaboration included attendance of the National Libraries chair and secretary at the Working Group's Paris meeting, along with a member of the Classification & Indexing Section.

3) With solid attendance, the Section's Durban programme was judged a success. The Programme, coordinated and chaired Unni Knutsen, continued the Section's pattern of focusing on the area of the world in which the World Congress was held and in focusing on IFLA's theme for the World Congress. The programme was entitled *National bibliographies—the African Landscape*:

*Partnering to Enhance National Bibliographies in Africa.* Four presentations made up the programme: "Bibliographies nationales africaines," by AMADOU BÉKAYE SIDIBÉ (Bibliothèque nationale du Mali, Bamako, Mali); "The South African National Bibliography: 1933 to date, from Isolation to Co-operation," by SUSAN BATTISON (National Library of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa); "Namibia National Bibliography: Strides and Challenges," by PAUL ZULU (National Library of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia); and "Out of Africa and into International Libraries: the Role of the Library of Congress Nairobi Office in Building Africana Library Collections," by PAMELA HOWARD-REGUINDIN

(Library of Congress Office Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya). Based on the recommendations of the Section, the Sidibe and Howard-Reguindin papers were recommended for publication in *ICBC* or the *IFLA Journal*. Not presented as part of the Durban programme was "Survey of the State of National Bibliographies in Africa," prepared by Unni Knutsen. The paper shared the results of a survey on national bibliographies in Africa, extending the Section's initiative to gather and update information on the status of national bibliographies in the areas where the World Congresses are convened.

4) Extending its collaboration with other sections, the Section teamed with Classification & Indexing and National Libraries Sections to offer a session as part of the Durban World Congress titled *Rethinking National Bibliographies in the Digital Era*. Four presentations formed the programme: "The Importance of National Bibliographies in the Digital Age," by Ingrid Parent (Library and Archives Canada); "The New 'Guidelines for National Bibliographies in the Digital Age'," by Maja Zumer; "More Wine, Not Enough Bottlers: Selection and Description of Materials in National Bibliographies," by Alan Danskin (British Library) and Beacher Wiggins; and "Best Practices for Subject Access to National Bibliographies: Interim Report by the Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by National Libraries and National Bibliographic Agencies," by Francoise Bourdon (Bibliothèque nationale de France) and Patrice Landry (Swiss National Library).

5) The Standing Committee settled on the theme of its programme for the Quebec IFLA World Congress. The theme will be "National Bibliographic Agencies without Borders: Experiences in Collaboration with Other Producers of Bibliographic Data." Neil Wilson and Carsten Andersen, new members to the Standing Committee, generously agreed to plan and co-chair the programme. The co-chairs issued a call for papers late in the year.

### **Communication**

Coordinated by the editor, Claudia Werner, an attractive issue (with colour pictures) of the Section's *Newsletter* was published and posted on its IFLA website, in 2007. The Section continued to share its ongoing activities and to disseminate information by mounting its documents and other items on its space on the IFLA website and by mailings initiated by the *Newsletter* editor.