

IFLA CLM : international collaboration and influence through cooperation

In 2003 I was nominated and accepted as the Australian representative on the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other legal matters (CLM: <http://www.ifla.org/en/about-the-committee-on-copyright-and-other-legal-matters>) at which stage I had only a general understanding of the role of the Committee. In the intervening six years my understanding has expanded and I now have an appreciation of the extent to which IFLA through CLM has contributed to the international copyright debate through its relations with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in particular. Other relationships with the International Publishers Association (IPA), the World Blind Society, and, more recently, the debate around indigenous knowledge have extended the agenda of the Committee.

Engagement with WIPO has been a strategic initiative of CLM and is a constant agenda item at CLM meetings. IFLA through CLM and Electronic Information for Librarians (eIFL <http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/about>) attend the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCRR) meetings and have made numerous interventions on behalf of libraries worldwide. Representation at SCCRR is provided by CLM depending on availability of members and accessibility of meetings. As most SCCRR meetings are held in Europe representation is usually provided by European or North American members of CLM. However when meetings, workshops, or other conferences are held in the southern hemisphere, Australia has been able to contribute. When the WTO met in Hong Kong, Winston Tabb from Johns Hopkins, the chair of CLM, and I represented IFLA. The meeting, which is remembered worldwide for the demonstrations by South Korean farmers that resulted in the closure of roads and train stations, was definitely a learning experience in international relations. More recently I was invited to participate in a WIPO capacity building workshop in Singapore for countries in the Asian region, with senior trade and legal representatives from Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, UAE, and the Philippines.

A WIPO representative, usually Geidy Lund, attends one of the CLM meetings at the IFLA Congress each year to provide an update on developments at WIPO and hear about the latest concerns of libraries around copyright and intellectual property. Apart from acceptance by the SCCRR as a voice on behalf of libraries, another result of this cooperative approach has been the study on limitations and exceptions for libraries in copyright legislation worldwide, carried out by Dr Kenneth Crews for WIPO http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=109192. The results of this study have been used to inform both WIPO and developing countries on strategies for library exceptions in legislation.

At the 2004 conference the CLM session on free trade agreements was informed by the Australian experience with the USA-Australia free trade agreement negotiations. While being in a position to provide Australia's view, it was also gratifying to receive advice from others on strategies and arguments they had found useful in their negotiations.

In Milan this year CLM will be co-hosting a session with the committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) on "Libraries and the Internet: Public Policy Challenges" and holding an independent session on copyright issues around digitisation of collections.

This is just a snapshot of the one of the IFLA Committees and is multiplied many-fold across the range of library areas of expertise and interest. For anyone interested in contributing to the international agenda on librarianship, IFLA provides a framework for involvement and support, with the added bonus of visiting libraries in cities worldwide.

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IFLA Sections — spokes in a big wheel or the engines that drive the system

The 47 Individual Sections, grouped under eight Divisions, are the life blood of IFLA. They are responsible for the development of policies and programs covering all areas of librarianship. IFLA members are entitled to register for the Sections covering their areas of interest. In addition, voting members, once registered, have the right to nominate individuals to contribute to the work of the Section. On average about twenty nominated individuals participate in the programs and activities of each Section.

I have been a member of the very active Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section since 2005. It meets twice a year, in January/February and August, coinciding with the IFLA Conference. In addition lots of correspondence is conducted via email.

So what exactly does the Section do? The Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section "is the forum in IFLA for libraries and associations concerned with making information in all formats available throughout the world through a variety of resource sharing and document supply techniques." (<http://www.ifla.org/en/docdel>) To do this, the Section undertakes a number of activities, such as producing the newsletter published twice year, developing and maintaining policies and guidelines, organising programs for the IFLA Conference, and sponsoring the ILDS conference held every two years. From time to time it is also involved with sponsoring satellite events in conjunction with other Sections as a prelude to the IFLA Conference.

The Section monitors interlibrary loan and document delivery (ILL/DD) activity through its representatives and therefore is able to provide sound advice to members. For example *International lending: principles and guidelines*, first published in 1954, were developed in an attempt to establish standards for interlending between countries. They have been revised several times to better reflect the changing ILL/DD landscape. A more recent development was the release of *Guidelines for best practice in interlibrary loan and document delivery*, based on the findings of three benchmarking studies: the North America ARL Study, Nordic Academic Libraries Study, and the Australian Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Study. Both of these documents are available from the website.

The newsletter is the main communication method to advise members of activities of the Section. It usually includes the minutes and reports of activities, country reports, and articles of particular interest to the ILL community. The Section also maintains a list and anyone is able to register.

The IFLA Conference is not like most conferences where you have a central organising committee. While the Conference itself is centrally organised, individual Sections contribute to the program by preparing their own segment of the program under the overall