

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 (SCCR) 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.

Eve Woodberry
PVC (Academic), University of New England, NSW
ewoodber@une.edu.au

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

IFLA umbrella. They are responsible for developing their own theme for the segment, collecting the papers for the program, contacting authors, and also running the segment on the day. Segments are usually in two hour slots on the IFLA program, but occasionally bids for a longer period can be made depending on the papers received.

The Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Section also oversees the biennial IFLA Interlending & Document Supply International (ILDS) Conference. The Section usually puts out a call inviting libraries to host the next conference. Once a selection is made, the conference organising committee liaises with the Section on most aspects of the conference. This year the 11th ILDS Conference is being held in Hannover.

Hopefully this brief description of the Section gives you an overview of the general workings of IFLA and will entice you to check out the website for some very valuable information

Margarita Moreno
mmoreno@nla.gov.au

IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments and IFLA conference — the world of libraries!

Parliamentary libraries of the world, as a distinct type of librarianship, form a section of their own within IFLA. The section shares experiences and knowledge and builds skills, particularly to foster the adaptation of the latest information technologies to parliamentary library services through their annual IFLA pre-conference events. The rich range of information, analysis, and advice services provided by them can be seen in presentations to earlier preconferences <http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s3/>.

One of the exciting parts of the section's preconference is a session where our clients – members of parliament – discuss their information approaches and needs. In an ever-changing world where the pressure of parliamentary and political work is immense these insights are very valuable. Many of the innovations described by libraries – from mobile phone alerts through to the major digitisation projects in place – have a great impact in helping politicians get the right information at the right time. Helping our busy clients make sense from an ocean of information is a service that is highly valued.

One of the amazing features of the IFLA conference itself is that each section has a part in the program through sections that are focused on their area of interest. I always enjoy the sections on government libraries, statistics, knowledge management, and university libraries as there seems to be a great connection between these groups. With the wide range of sections organising sessions you will find something to interest you whatever aspect of Library and Information Science is your bent.

For a virtual snapshot of an IFLA conference, go to the website for the Milan conference (<http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/>) and browse through the papers and presentations that will be given this August.

Roxanne Missingham
Member, Library & Research Services for Parliaments
roxanne.missingham@aph.gov.au

A Canadian experience

Our family spent a wonderful year living and working in Canada and I would encourage anyone to take the opportunity to experience another country in this way. My husband was on a teacher exchange so I was just tagging along. However, I was keen to find some employment or volunteer work in any library I could, for the experience of working in another country. I was somewhat restricted in regard to the amount of work I wanted to do as we planned to fit in as much sight seeing as possible during our time overseas!

Our exchange home town was Chilliwack – a city of about 80 000, 100kms or so east of Vancouver, on the Fraser River. It's an agricultural area, but also a popular outdoor tourist destination, close to hiking, golfing, fishing, camping, biking, and a popular ski field.

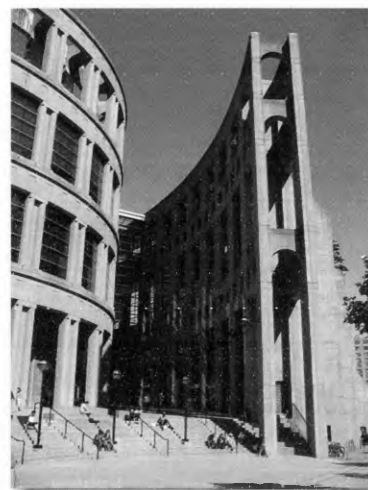
After filling out numerous forms and paying various fees, I was able to work in British Columbia. I had only recently completed my Graduate Diploma in Education (Teacher Librarianship) but I had worked as a casual librarian in high schools, TAFE Colleges, and at Southern Cross University so I considered myself quite versatile! I approached the library at the local University of the Fraser Valley and was lucky enough to gain some casual hours at two campuses of the university: the small campus in Chilliwack and the main campus in Abbotsford, right on the US border and some 30 minutes closer to Vancouver. The library at the Abbotsford campus offers beautiful views of Mt. Baker in the state of Washington, in the US – an ideal location!

I was apprehensive about working in a new library in a different country but I needn't have worried. The staff were very friendly, helpful, and keen to hear about libraries in Australia. I had to learn another library system – but found many similarities in the role. Students still ask the same type of questions and many still leave their assignments to the last minute! I also volunteered in the library at the elementary (primary) school where my husband was teaching. All the staff at the school made us very welcome, and it was great to be able to give something back. My efforts at baking lamingtons and Anzac Day "cookies" were also appreciated!

A visit to the Vancouver Public Library was a highlight of the year too, with its soaring open spaces and large glass expanses offering views of the city. The entry area has coffee shops and galleries and has become a popular meeting place in Vancouver.

I would recommend the experience to anyone – there are organisations that assist librarians to exchange to other countries and it's a great way to see other parts of the world. Our whole family benefited from our time living and working in another country. We made some wonderful friends, have stayed in touch and returned for holidays to our other 'home'. The exchange also broadened horizons for our children, both of whom will complete overseas exchange programs as part of their university studies.

Jann Small
Liaison Librarian (School of Health & Human Sciences)
Southern Cross University
jann.small@scu.edu.au



Vancouver Public Library