

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 pre-conferences <http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s3/>.

One of the exciting parts of the section's pre-conference 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