

IFLA SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

FERNANDA CAMPOS, CHAIR OF THE IFLA NATIONAL LIBRARIES SECTION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (PORTUGAL)

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL SEPTEMBER 2002 – AUGUST 2003

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP

180 national associations and institutional or personal members are registered for the Section per July 2002.

The Section Standing Committee numbers 22 members from 17 countries.

OFFICERS

Chair/Treasurer: Mrs Fernanda CAMPOS
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As this is an election year, officers have to stand for election.

INFORMATION COORDINATION

The secretary of the section.

MEETINGS

The section has held no special meeting between the two annual conferences.

PROJECTS

No running projects.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter of the IFLA National Libraries Section, June 2003.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMMES

During the Glasgow Conference, the section organized an Open Session and a Workshop jointly with two other sections.

2.1. “Legal deposit and copyright laws: how they meet the National Libraries mission”

This joint Open Session was organized with the Committee on Copyright and other legal matters. The objective was to present experiences especially on the issue of legal deposit of electronic publications but also to discuss how legal deposit and copyright laws can meet the national libraries mission of safeguarding and providing long-term access to the nation’s written heritage:

- Depository, copyright and the notion of a “document”/John Bing, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, Norway.
- Implementing legal deposit of electronic publications in Africa: progress report from South Africa and Namibia/Phegello Z. Letshela & Peter J. Lor, National Library of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa.
- Legal deposit and copyright: some issues of concern/Marianne Scott, IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters.
- Legal deposit, electronic publications and digital archiving: the National Library of Australia’s experience/Pam Gatenby, National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia.
- Access to electronic publication in TEL: a common interest of National Libraries and publishers/Gerard van Trier, Royal Library, The Hague, Netherlands.

The presentations either as position papers or as practical experiences raise great interest from the audience that unanimously felt that some guidance had been presented on this delicate issue that nowadays interests all national libraries.

2.2 “Capturing the Web: learning from experience in the national libraries”

This joint Workshop with the Information Technology Section aimed at presenting up-to-date experiences, not all of them from national libraries, and discusses methodologies, implementation strategies, legal aspects, etc.:

- Breaking the waves-pioneering in Web-harvesting/Brewster Kahle, Internet Archive, San Francisco, USA.
- Capturing in practice: the surface Web and the deep Web/Catherine Lupovici, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France.
- The collection of Swedish Web pages at the Royal Library: the Web heritage of Sweden/Allan Arvidson, Royal Library, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Archiving the Web: some legal aspects/Alenka Kavcic-Colié, National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- Access to Web archives: the Nordic Web Archive access project/Svein Arne Brygfjeld, National Library of Norway, Rana, Norway.

The Workshop was full and the discussion provided a large number of questions and comments to the panellists, the topic being of great strategic importance to national libraries and recommended by CDNL.

2.3 Other activities with the collaboration of the National Libraries Section

- Open session with IFLA-PAC “A Blue-Shield for the protection of our endangered cultural heritage”.
- Workshop with Bibliography Section “Bibliographic control or chaos?”
- Workshop with School Libraries Section “Reading development with young people in public, school and national libraries”.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE IFLA NATIONAL LIBRARIES SECTION AT THE 69TH IFLA CONFERENCE, BERLIN, 1-8 AUGUST 2003

The section organizes an Open Session and a Workshop.

- 3.1. **“Benchmarking and performance measurements: developing quality services at national libraries”**, Open Session jointly organized with the Statistics and Evaluation Section, on Tuesday 5 August, 16.00-18.00, with speakers coming from Germany, Slovenia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

This topic has been considered by the National Libraries Section with the support of CDNL. The results of a survey made on behalf of CENL will be presented and the guidelines and conclusions will be of great value for national libraries worldwide.

- 3.2 **“National libraries as access points: virtual libraries for virtual users”**, Workshop on Thursday 7 August, 13.30-17.30.

The main objective is to present and discuss several experiences that have come successfully to create virtual libraries for virtual users, always with a view of broadening access to information and de-centralizing it, or develop tools for multilingual publics. The speakers come from China, Australia, USA, Germany and Switzerland.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIES SECTION (2004-2005)

The Section has to prepare its two year plan, with a mission statement, goals and actions to be taken to fulfil the goals. The discussion has started in Glasgow, last year, and it was accepted that the National Libraries Section should emphasize, in its mission statement, that national libraries must play an important role in bridging the digital divide. In particular, the Section should support national libraries in developing countries in their struggle for recognition, relevance and impact.

The importance of raising the profile of national libraries as institutions contributing to national identity building and to social and economic development with the lifelong learning was also stressed.

With these broad goals on mind, the Section decided to organize activities for Buenos Aires that are also in accordance with the conference theme which is “Libraries as tools for education and development”. Some topics are to be explored during the Berlin meetings, such as

- educational role of the national libraries
- preservation issues (jointly with the PAC core activity and the PAC Section).

A suggestion to hold a pre-conference or a Workshop for national librarians of developing countries in different geographical regions of the world was also forwarded with the objective of teaching leadership and management and/or of training and awareness-raising in modern LIS developments.

These are very broad topics that still need to be worked out by the Section’s Standing Committee. However, as last year showed up, we receive many input and contributions from observers. CDNL is also a place where we can be together and prepare and present ideas that the National Libraries Section might wish to pursue, as it was the case with benchmarking and quality services. This collaboration is of great importance to the Section and I would like to encourage members to contribute with ideas for future activities.

1 June 2003