

IFLA SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

FERNANDA MARIA CAMPOS — CHAIR, IFLA NATIONAL LIBRARIES SECTION DEPUTY-DIRECTOR, BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL OF PORTUGAL

REPORT TO CDNL 2004

OVERVIEW OF IFLA BERLIN 2003

The National Libraries Section had a very successful IFLA Conference in Berlin last year. We held two sessions: the first in cooperation with the Statistics and Evaluation Section and entitled Benchmarking and Performance Measurements: Developing Quality Services at National Libraries. The second was a workshop entitled National Libraries as Access Points: Virtual Libraries for Virtual Users. Papers are available on IFLANET and at the National Libraries Section web page there are also links to them (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/>).

For the first time, the sessions were evaluated by attendees and I am happy to say that there was almost unanimity in marking the excellence of both sessions.

Benchmarking and performance measurements are an ongoing activity for the Section, with the support of CDNL. The questionnaire that provided the data analyzed in two of last year papers, regarding Europe and Asia and Oceania, will be subject to some adjustments coming from comments made by inquired libraries and in 2005 we hope to be able to proceed with the questionnaire for other parts of the world. The coordinator of this Working Group is Georges Zacchos, Director of the National Library of Greece. Colleagues from Africa and America are most welcome to join.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-2005

During the Berlin Conference, elections took place and Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, from the National Library of Switzerland is the new Secretary of the Section. Also, a Strategic Plan for 2004-2005 was presented to IFLA and approved (you can find it in the National Libraries Section web page).

The major areas in which the National Library Section aims to invest in these two years are:

- Promote the educational role of national libraries as centres for lifelong literacy and learning, with special emphasis on e-learning technologies.
- Develop disaster planning dispositions in national libraries in order to help in the preservation of our cultural heritage.
- Promote initiatives of shared access to digital cultural heritage in cooperation with archives and museums.
- Share experiences and best practices concerning national libraries legislation (especially legal deposit dispositions).
- Support and cooperate with ICABS (IFLA - CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards) regarding bibliographic and resource control and long-term archiving of electronic resources.
- Continue the survey on performance measurement (as mentioned before).
- Share experiences and best practices concerning national libraries new buildings and equipments.

ACTION PLAN FOR BUENOS AIRES CONFERENCE

The National Libraries Section organizes on **Monday August 23, 13.45-15.45** a session on:

The educational role of national libraries with the following presentations:

- ***The impact of e-learning at the British Library***
LYNNE BRINDLEY (British Library, London, UK)
- ***La Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros: un consorcio que lidera la gestión del conocimiento en el sistema educativo argentino***
GRACIELA PERRONE (Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- ***La Bibliothèque nationale au service des populations béninoises***
FRANCIS ZOGO (Bibliothèque nationale du Bénin, Porto Novo, Bénin)
- ***Library and Archives Canada : making cultural content accessible for education***
MARIANNE MCLEAN (Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Canada)
- ***The evolution of the National Library of Trinidad and Tobago and its contribution to educational development in the country***
JOAN OSBOURNE (National Library of Trinidad and Tobago)

Tuesday August 24, 16.00-18.00, a joint session with IFLA PAC and Preservation and Conservation Section on the topic **Safeguarding our documentary heritage: do national libraries have a disaster plan?** with the following presentations:

- ***Disaster preparedness and daily management policy***
CELIA ZAHER (National Library, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- ***Disaster planning and National Libraries: state of the art and visions for the future***
MARIE-THERESE VARLAMOFF (PAC, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France)
- ***La prevención de los catastrophes en Chile***
XIMENA CRUZAT (National Library, Santiago de Chile, Chile) and/or
CLARA BUDNIK (DIBAM, Chile)
- ***Disaster preparedness in Southeast Asia***
JAN FULLERTON (National Library, Canberra, Australia)

Next year will be an election year which means that new members are expected to join the Standing Committee. We hope to raise interest among CDNL members who are also members of the Section to offer to serve in the Standing Committee, participating in the on-going activities and contributing with ideas for the future.

The National Libraries Section has now a discussion list and publishes its Newsletter in an on-line version. We have also prepared a new leaflet in order to raise awareness to our goals and activities within the IFLA conferences.

CONTACTS

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