



The Information Point

the Government Libraries Section Newsletter

July 2010



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Conference Programs and Events

GL Section at WLIC 2010, Gothenburg

August 10 (Tuesday)
14.30 - 17.20. First Standing Committee meeting / Location H1

August 12 (Thursday)
13.45 - 15.45. Joint Program Law Libraries, Government Libraries, and Government Information and Official Publications, "*Creating an International Legal Information Policy Agenda: Issues and Challenges*"

August 13 (Friday)
09.30 - 15.45. Joint Mega Program with 5 sections (Government Libraries, Government Information and Official Publications, Knowledge Management, Law Libraries, and Preservation and Conservation), "*Librarians in Action: Information Policy and Human Rights*"

August 14 (Saturday)
16.15-18.00 General Assembly

August 15 (Sunday)
09.45 - 11.15. Second Standing Committee meeting / Location G1
16.15 - 17.30 Closing Session

Events related to government libraries

IV Jornadas de Bibliotecas de Defensa
6-8 October (Madrid, Spain)
[Provisional programme](#)
[Registration bulletin](#)

Visibilidad, accesibilidad y usabilidad de las bibliotecas especializadas
20 October (Ribadavia, Spain)
More information: rosa.lamas@xunta.es

Chair's Column

By Jerry W. Mansfield

Chair 2009-2011



New Online Publication

At the Gothenburg conference the Government Libraries Section will debut a new online publication that was previewed and approved during the Milan conference. The Section intends to post an online publication that will include examples of mission and/or vision statements of government libraries worldwide. As an online publication, ease of update can be frequent. This project is an outgrowth of some research completed in 2009 for libraries that made an inquiry to the Government Libraries Section for some examples of mission statements for government libraries. The real mission and/or vision statements that we have collected can serve as models for ideas and adaptation to other libraries worldwide.

Conference Events

The Government Libraries Section is partnering with multiple IFLA sections for joint conference programs on August 12 and August 13. Check the Conference and Program's Events notice in this newsletter for program titles and dates. We hope that you will be able to join us at one or both of our programs. Our two annual business and strategic planning meetings will be held on August 10 and August 15. Interested guests are encouraged to attend our meetings.

Information Coordinator's Report

By Miguel Navas-Fernández

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Mid-Term Conference in Barcelona

The Government Libraries Section periodically organizes pre-conferences and mid-term conferences. So far, these have taken place in Cardiff (2007), Addis Ababa (2006), Stockholm (2005) and Moscow (1999). In 2010, the Section agreed to organize a mid-term one before the Gothenburg IFLA congress, and we chose

Barcelona.

We received the sponsorship from the Catalan Ministry of Culture and the Catalan Library Association, and it took place on April 22 and 23, in the Auditorium of the Museum of the History of Catalonia.

The entrance was free, but previous registration was required. About 80 people attended, mostly Catalan. The ash clouds from the volcano in Iceland caused the cancellation of some flights from the north of Europe which prevented some Europeans from attending.

The conference was developed on the first day, Thursday April 22, from 9 to 14h. The welcome speech was given by the General Director of Cultural Cooperation (Mr. Jordi Roca) and the President of the Catalan Library Association (Ms. Eulàlia Espinàs). After that, 7 communications were presented. All speakers used Spanish language, but showed English slides for their presentations. Main topics were library networking, digital preservation and conservation, specialized information units within the government, historic and graphic collections, support services from the Catalan Government to the special libraries, and marketing. I presented an introduction to the Section as the closing event, explained the attendees what we do, and invited them to join. Maite Cuende and Maria Goeckeritz, members of the Section, were there too.



Closing speech

There was a free coffee break offered by the Catalan Library Association, and an optional payment-required lunch at the restaurant of the Museum.

The conference was broadcast live online. All the papers (some in English), slides and videos are available at <http://www.ifla.org/en/node/2026>.

The library tour took place the second day, Friday April 23. It was followed by 15 people

approximately, who visited five government libraries including the Library of Catalonia. We also enjoyed the "Diada de Sant Jordi", the Catalan national day, and the roses and books fair, celebrated in the streets of Barcelona.



Visiting the Catalan Women's Institute

Many attendees stated that they enjoyed very much the conference and the library tour, so we can proudly say that this mini-IFLA congress has been successful.

Report from the SLA 2010 Annual Conference -- Kickoff to the Second Century of SLA

By Sanjay K Bihani

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The Special Libraries Association (SLA) was founded in 1909 representing the interests of thousands of information professionals in over eighty countries worldwide. SLA is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information and knowledge professionals and their strategic partners. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives. For more information, visit www.sla.org.

SLA 2010: Around 3500 members of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) participated in SLA 2010 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO in New Orleans, Louisiana (USA) from June 13-17, 2010. Participants were able to take advantage of

learning opportunities in areas such as global information issues, mobile technology, new technology, search technologies and taxonomy. The conference featured more than 250 sessions, various networking opportunities and high-profile keynote presentations. This year's SLA also offered members, who could not come to New Orleans, the opportunity to participate in the first-ever 3D virtual SLA Annual Conference.

INFO-EXPO: INFO-EXPO is the largest information and knowledge management exposition in content and technology providers in the world. SLA 2010 featured more than 200 companies and organizations as well as a total of more than 450 booths.

Virtual Conference: For the first time, SLA 2010 offered a virtual component as part of its annual conference. Virtual attendees were able to view and participate in two general sessions as well as attend ten spotlight sessions.

2010 Opening General Session and SLA Awards Ceremony: SLA honored its members during Awards Ceremony in Opening General Session. Award recipients include the following:

- John Cotton Dana Award: Jim Tchobanoff
- SLA Hall of Fame Award: Judy Field, John V. Ganly and Guy St. Clair
- Dow Jones Leadership Award: Stacey Greenwell
- Dialog Member Achievement Award: Richard P. Hulser and Dianna Wiggins
- Rose L. Vormelker Award: Jan Chindlund
- SLA Fellows: Rebecca Jones, Dee Magnoni, James Manasco, Jill Strand, Libby Trudell
- SLA Rising Stars: Jessica Beauchamp, Amy Buckland, Reece Dano, Bethan Ruddock, Chris Vestal

After the award ceremony, participants were addressed by husband-and-wife political commentators James Carville and Mary Matalin. They spoke about the importance of quality news sources and the blurring lines between opinion and news. Matalin, who talked about the amount of information available and the changing information landscape said "we have come to a paradigm shift in the information age. You guys can handle all of this info -- you need to teach the rest of us to handle it, too." Carville focused on how people use information saying "good and bad information is defined by how we use it. Some use information like a drunk uses a lamppost for validation and

support, not illumination". In response to questions, they each discussed their childhood experiences with libraries, with Carville equating the closing of libraries with extinguishing candles: "Every time a library closes, we blow out a candle against the dark."

Membership Meeting and Closing General Session: SLA 2010 Treasurer Dan Trefethen delivered a report on the financial state of the association. Trefethen cited decreased non-dues revenues combined with rising costs for services such as Click U Webinars, the annual conference, and other member benefits as responsible for SLA's current fiscal situation.

SLA CEO Janice Lachance delivered her annual State of the Association address. She noted that the association has long relied on dues, sponsorships and revenue from the annual conference to cover its operating expenses and that this three-pronged approach no longer works in today's economy. "We are at an important crossroads as both an association and as a profession", she said. "The business models that have sustained both for the last one hundred years are withering away.... This is not an era of change; it is the change of an era". She went on to announce that the SLA board and staff would be working hard to examine the current budget structure and how best to move forward with a more sustainable business model for SLA.

In her closing remarks, SLA President, Anne Caputo emphasized the importance of creating a roadmap to take the profession and SLA into a sustainable future. Quoting Lewis Carroll, Caputo said, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there". She highlighted four major points on her roadmap: (1) information professionals using the alignment project research findings to secure their jobs, (2) creating career tools to help members apply the lessons learned through the alignment project research in their workplaces, (3) adopting new mission, vision and core values statements for the association, and (4) ensuring fiscal responsibility with a focus on membership expansion and retention. Caputo concluded her remarks with a quote from Will Rogers, the famous American humorist. "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there," she said. "We do not plan to be run over--and we will not be just sitting there."

Following the meeting, attendees heard a thought-provoking presentation from Nicholas Carr, whose

latest book, *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*, argues that the Internet is eroding our ability to read deeply and absorb knowledge--the skills we develop from reading books. "The Internet may be the most powerful mind-altering technology to ever be in use," said Carr. He also discussed the pitfalls of multitasking, saying, "What we're learning to do when we multitask is learning to be good on a superficial level."

This was truly a content-rich conference with lots of learning to take back to the workplace and there was plenty of fun, too. New Orleans is a home to some of the greatest food, music and cultural attractions anywhere. The highlight of the conference was the opportunity to catch up with so many SLA members and participants.

SLA 2011 Annual conference will be held from June 12-15, 2011 in Philadelphia.



Sanjay Bihani with SLA CEO Janice Lachance and SLA President, Anne Caputo, during the conference.

ICDL 2010 – International Conference on Digital Libraries on Shaping the Information Paradigm held at New Delhi (India)

By Sanjay K Bihani

(The detailed report on this conference has been published in IFLA Journal Volume 36 No. 2 (June 2010) and is available at http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/publications/ifla-journal/ifla-journal-36-2_2010.pdf)

The Third International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2010) jointly hosted by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), was inaugurated by Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resource Development of the Government of

India and Chief Guest of the Conference at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 23rd February 2010.



Inauguration Session of ICDL 2010

ICDL 2010 was spread over four days from 23rd to 26th February 2010. Day 1 was devoted to tutorials which were conducted at IGNOU Convention Centre, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

The three day conference was started with keynote address in the plenary session on 24th February 2010 by Dr. P. Anandan, Managing Director, Microsoft Research India on "Looking beyond movies: digital videos as an information source." There was a 1st Poster Presentation and a product presentation between lunch and technical sessions. The day's sessions were followed by a cultural programme in the evening and conference dinner.

The second day was started with a keynote address by Mr Jens Thorhague, Director General of Danish Agency for Libraries and Media. He spoke on "Digital Libraries for all: a discussion for strategic development." There were 2 technical sessions before lunch. The after lunch session was started with a product presentation and the 2nd Poster Session and a visit to exhibitions. This was followed by a Panel Discussion on "Digital Library Security." The panel discussion was followed by a cultural programme of Kathak Dance and Folk Dances of North India.



Participants at a session during ICDL 2010

The third and last day was started with keynote address by Dr R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser of Government of India on "Digital Libraries-e learning and National Knowledge Network." There were two technical sessions conducted before lunch. The after lunch session was started with another panel discussion on "Digital Library Policy and Standards."

Following the panel discussion, the Valedictory Session was started with a presentation of conference report by Rajesh K Bhardwaj, Librarian, TERI. The conference was attended by nearly 700 delegates from 32 countries. The conference had 9 tutorial sessions, 3 plenary sessions, 29 invited talks, 31 technical sessions, 210 contributed papers and 2 panel discussions. To encourage and recognize the individual contributions, 3 best papers were awarded under Indian, Asian and International category. Best poster awards were also given to 3 best poster presenters. In his valedictory address, Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture of Government of India emphasized the importance of libraries. There was a special address by Mr Armoogum Parsuramen, Director and Representative of UNESCO, New Delhi. Another special address was given by Prof. Arcot Rajasekar from School of Library and Information Science, University of North Carolina, USA. At the end a vote of thanks was given to the organising secretaries of the conference.

Report from Computers in Libraries Conference, April 2010

By Hannah Fischer

Corresponding Member
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The watchword for this year's Washington, D.C. Computers in Libraries conference was clear: "23 Things". 23 Things refers to a "learn as you go" program to help people learn web 2.0 skills like blogging, tagging, and creating videos. The program was first put together by Helene Blowers, the Public Services Technology Director of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County in Virginia, USA, but since her development, the idea has taken off, inspiring many libraries and other research centers to develop their own programs aimed at their own constituencies.

One of these research centers was a group of librarians from the U.S. Department of State who started a "23 Things" program for all of the U.S. embassy employees in the field, and who came and talked about their program at Computers in Libraries. Each of their web 2.0-related "23 Things" came with instructions on how to complete the "Thing," so that people could, for instance, read about editing wikis and then immediately put that knowledge to use by actually editing a wiki. Learning in this way helps many people retain information longer. The embassy employees were given official time to complete each of the 23 things in the program and in addition, the Department of State gave an Apple Shuffle to each person who completed the program. While the speakers who organized the program said that keeping track of who had done what and whether they had earned their Shuffle or not was quite an organizational project, they also said it was well worth it, ensuring that the employees of embassies around the world knew how to share information using the newest technologies, including wikis, twitter, and Flickr.

One note: you don't have to have such fancy awards or so many "Things" in order to implement a similar program in your research environment. I was so inspired by the "23 Things" program, I implemented a much smaller "5 Things" program in the Knowledge Services group of the Congressional Research Service, with only awards of coffee and donuts on offer, and it seemed to work quite well. If you tailor your "Things" to the needs of your community, and perhaps offer

moderate awards, you are certain to develop a program that enables your users or your employees to step into the world of web 2.0 with confidence.

Some links you might be interested in if you are considering putting together a "23 Things" program of your own:

<http://plcmclearning.blogspot.com/>
<http://sjlibrary23.blogspot.com/>

A New Specialized Reading Room of International Organizations Documents Opening in the Russian State Library

By Emma Voskayan

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The Russian State Library (RSL) is preparing for the opening of a new specialized Reading Room of International Organizations Documents. RSL is a depository library for many authoritative international organizations which play a very significant role in world affairs. At present, information and knowledge of international organizations can be included in the lists of the RSL users' information priorities.

The new specialized Reading Room will open a new page in the Center of Legal Information (CLI) history and activity. CLI was created in the Russian State Library in 1998 and the RSL international organizations depository collection became part of CLI collection.

The Reading Room is located in the main building of the Russian State Library in the center of Moscow bordering the Kremlin, Alexandrovsky Garden and the Manezh building. The unique classical architectural style of the new Reading Room provides technical equipment created according to up-to-date information demands of modern information users. A beautiful view of central Moscow from the windows of the Reading Room will be harmonized with comfortable conditions for everyday users' work.

Depository librarians are also planning to introduce a new concept of library and information services, which is based on the intensification of active

forms to get access to knowledge and information of international organizations. Large-scale use of the RSL's new technological platform, as well as increased cooperation and further expansion of partnership contacts with the society and representatives of international organizations, will help the RSL to achieve a high quality of library and information services.

The functions of the new Reading Room are:

- to provide the collection of international organizations with relevant information resources,
- to provide access to world information resources,
- to put education and occupational training programmes into practice,
- to participate in round tables, conferences, workshops and other events,
- to feature remarkable dates and significant events,
- to carry out various cultural events and book exhibitions,
- to realize joint research projects and ideas.

Working within the framework of international organizations progressive decisions and state branch programmes, RSL will be able to hold the fullest collection of international organizations documents, ensure information support of these organizations, and popularize and disseminate their information and knowledge.

The United Nations collection is one of the largest international organizations collections in the Russian State Library. It is very symbolic that the new specialized Reading Room opening day will be held in the the Russian State Library on October 24, 2010 on the eve of the 65th anniversary of the United Nations creation.



The Russian State Library

Lost treasures discovered in historic library collection

By Melanie Gardner

Public Relations Office, King's College London

Thousands of rare books, state documents, treaties, and pamphlets are being unearthed as a unique collection formerly used by diplomats and civil servants is catalogued and conserved at King's College London.

The magnificent Foreign & Commonwealth Office Historical Library Collection, described by historian Andrew Roberts as an 'Aladdin's cave', was acquired by King's in 2007. It includes some 60,000 items and comprises books (the oldest dating from 1513), periodicals, pamphlets, manuscripts and typescript documents, maps, newspaper cuttings, photographs, sound recordings and at least one oil painting.

Its subject-matter spans the last 500 years of the history of most countries and peoples of the world, relating to exploration, international affairs, natural resources, defence and security issues, politics and trade.

Of the 11,500 items already catalogued, around a fifth appear to be unique and do not seem to be held in any other major library either in the UK or overseas. Many more items are expected to be discovered, and King's is now launching a £650,000 fundraising campaign to make this wealth of material accessible to the public for the first time.

Katie Sambrook, Special Collections Librarian at King's College London, comments: "This is one of the most important library collections to be made available to the public in the last quarter-century, and arguably the most important to be acquired by this College in its 180-year history. Many of the items in the Collection have been annotated by earlier owners or users, reflecting the Library's role as a working tool of government. The high proportion of rare or otherwise unrecorded items in the Collection makes it a real treasure-trove for the historian".

Among the items that have already come to light are:

- A copy of the first published account of Captain James Cook's 1770 expedition to Australia which appears to have been annotated in the margins by a member of the crew.
- A copy of Winston Churchill's 1922 valedictory letter to Colonial Office staff when he lost the post of Colonial Secretary, while ill with appendicitis, as Lloyd George's coalition fell
- A copy of the *Arab bulletin*, a secret document produced in 1916 by the Arab Bureau (part of the military intelligence department of Britain's Egyptian expeditionary force) to report on 'any political events in Turkey or elsewhere that affect the Arab movement' produced partly by TE Lawrence. Only 25 copies were printed
- A manuscript notebook giving details of incoming and outgoing Foreign Office correspondence for the period September 1814-February 1815, while Lord Castlereagh, then Foreign Secretary, was attending the Congress of Vienna. It gives a unique insight into the workings of government during this period of heightened activity. Correspondence recorded reads like a *Who's Who* of the day and includes records of letters from Wellington, Ali Pasha, Metternich and Talleyrand.
- A bound volume of royal marriage treaties containing copies (some in manuscript, some in printed form) of marriage treaties of the British royal family from 1792 to 1892, including that of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

Lord Owen, UK Foreign Secretary (1977-9), said of the set of press cuttings relating to November 1918-September 1919. *'The significance of these volumes is that to understand the political mistakes made in the negotiations for the Treaty of Paris you have first to know about the public mood, and there are few better means of sensing that than to read the press cuttings of the time.'*

Part of the Collection is on show in an exhibition *Explore 500 years of world history* in the Weston Room of the Maughan Library at King's College London until 31 July. The curators are Katie Sambrook and Hugh Cahill.

The Collection is already being used as an international research resource, with people

coming from as far as Australia and New Zealand to consult documents and books.

King's is itself benefitting directly from having the collection at the College and adding to the strength of its teaching as material from the Collection is incorporated into the College's undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Students from the History Department are not the only ones discovering the riches of the Collection. English students have used documents and pamphlets relating to the history of colonial emigration to Australia and guides to Sydney to study the 19th century novel, while second-year medical students have learnt about various tropical diseases and aspects of public health in the colonies.

Future access to the collection includes a series of exhibitions, talks and themed displays for community groups, local children and international groups.

The total cost of cataloguing the entire collection will be £650,000. This money is needed not just for the intensive programme of cataloguing and conservation, but also to create an 'online gateway' to help people use the resource.

The Collection is housed in the Foyle Special Collections Library based at King's College London's Maughan Library in Chancery Lane, London WC2.

Entries for just some of the FCO Historical Library Collection can be viewed at: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/iss/archivespec/collections/sc/individual/fco.html>

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Argentina Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros

Australia National Library of Australia

 State Library of New South Wales

Azerbaijan Presidential Library

Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Belgium European Parliament
 Vlaams Parlement, Informatheek

Cameroon National Assembly

Canada Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada

Canadian International Development Agency

Canadian Library Association

Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly

Canadian Space Agency

China National School of Administration

 Shanghai Administrative Institute

Croatia Croatian Information Documentation Referral Agency

Cuba Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica

Cyprus Cyprus Health Sciences Library

Denmark The Administrative Library

Egypt Central Bank of Egypt

Finland Library of Parliament

 Ministry of Finance

 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France Association des Bibliothécaires de France

 Bibliothèque administrative de la Ville de Paris

Germany Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Wirtschaftswissenschaften

 Deutscher Bundestag Bibliothek

Hungary Central Statistical Office

Iceland Upplysing Icelandic Library and Information Science Association

India Ministry of External Affairs

 Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation

	Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Mussoorie, Uttarakhand 248179	Saudi Arabia	King Fahad National Library
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas, Library and Research Service	Slovenia	National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
	Library Association of Ireland	Spain	Biblioteca de Andalucía
Italy	Biblioteca del Consiglio Regionale del Venete		Biblioteca Corts Valencianes
	Biblioteca del Senato della Republica "G. Spadolini"	Swaziland	Swaziland National Library Service
	Italian Library Association	Sweden	Swedish Library Association
Japan	National Diet Library		Swedish Association for Information Specialists
Korea	Korean Library Association	Switzerland	Bibliothek am Guisanplatz
Madagascar	Bibliothèque Nationale de Madagascar	Tanzania	East African Community Secretariat
Mongolia	Secretariat of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia Sukhbaatar District Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia	United Kingdom	Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
			International Association of Law Libraries
Netherlands	Min. van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport, Kennis-en Info. Centru, voor Kennisontwikkeling Nederlandse Vereniging van Beroepsbeoefenaren in de Bibliotheek Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, Dienst Informatievoorziening		Welsh Assembly Government
Norway	Government Administration Services, Information Management Statistics Norway	United States	American Library Association
Portugal	Departamento de Arquivo, Documentação e Informação		Chief Officers of Library Agencies
	Associação Portuguesa de Bibliotecários, Arquivistas e Documentalistas		Special Libraries Association
Russian Federation	Republican Medical Library		
	Russian State Library		



IFLA 2010 - Let's meet in Göteborg



Editorial Note

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We would like to see more global representation and would welcome a volunteer from each continent to supply a continental update or perspective to the newsletter – if you are interested please contact the Editor. Copy may be submitted to the Editor, Miguel Navas-Fernández at miguel.navas@gencat.cat in MS Word or in the body of an email message. Accompanying photographs are welcome.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback to the newsletter editor at miguel.navas@gencat.cat.