



# NEWSLETTER

Regional Section for Latin America and the Caribbean

N. 26 June 1995

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## EDITORIAL

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From March 5-8, 1995 The Seminar Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World was held in Managua/Nicaragua. This seminar was held to identify and assess library needs in Central America and to familiarize participants with the drafting of projects.

The seminar was sponsored and promoted by IFLA Core Program, The advancement of Librarianship in the Third World and IFLA Standing Committee of the Regional Section of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting was also supported by local authorities through the Ministry of Culture and

by the National Library. The meeting was a success, thanks to the excellent organization of our colleagues from Nicaragua and thanks to the friendly atmosphere in all working sessions.

It was the first time that an IFLA meeting was held in Central America, and it was also the first time that a Central American project was sponsored, through ALP.

The Seminar aimed at: the knowledge of the library situation in the Central America countries and the identification of the main barriers to library development;

- the drafting of projects in order to send applications to international organizations;
- provide information on the availability of sponsorships offered by international organizations.

The role of Birgitta Bergdahl, coordinator of the ALP Program, is worth mentioning. She dealt with the situation of the ALP database on institutions that provide sponsorship for international projects and also presented the requirements for project proposals to ALP.

Due to UNESCO's role in supporting the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Isidro Fernandez Abballí, PGI/UNESCO advisor, presented the requirements for project proposals to UNESCO. The office of PGI/LAC is in Caracas, Venezuela.

Representatives from the following countries participated in the Seminar: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, El Salvador. The members of IFLA/LAC Standing Committee represented: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Peru, Venezuela. The Regional Manager, The President and Secretary of the Section attended the meeting.

The Seminar was characterized by the active and enthusiastic participation of its members which expressed the desire to see this kind of meeting repeated in America Central and in other countries in Latin America.

Immediately after the seminar the first meeting of the Standing Committee for 1995 started. Many important matters concerning the activities of the section were dealt with the program of IFLA/LAC sessions in IFLA Conference, Istanbul.

We invite all to come to the Open sessions and also to the Professional Session with the theme: The future of library materials.

Elizabeth Maria Ramos de Carvalho, IFLA/LAC Regional Office Manager

*The editors of the Newsletter survey all the publications and mail sent to the RO. As a communication channel not only for IFLA but also for the countries in our Region, some of the important information can only be transmitted with the personal collaboration of professionals. Usually the news are restricted to those countries that are our main collaborators. Have you checked how many times your country has been the subject of news in this NEWSLETTER?*

## **NEWS IFLA AND ITS SECTIONS**

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### **FORTHCOMING IFLA CONFERENCES**

- **61th COUNCIL AND General Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 20-26 August, 1995.**

Theme: Libraries of the future. Sub-themes: Information technology and the restructuring of libraries; Cooperative national and international information networks, The future of library materials, Libraries and public education.

For more information on the Congress and Council please contact: Ms. Altınay Sernikli, President, National Library Bahçelievler 06490 - Ankara - Turkey.

Registration fees: US\$ 400,00. Hotel rates vary - Double: US\$ 40,00-125,00 - Single: 25,00-100,00.

- **Official IFLA PRE Seminar.**

Theme: "Influencing decision makers: library planning in developing countries". The following professionals will represent our regions: Ricardo Rodriguez Pereyra, Argentina; Helena Gomes de Oliveira, Brasil; Xonia Jimenez, Cuba; Mme.F. Thyballe, Haiti; Lourdes Feria, México; Marisa

Tsurpial y Maria Elena Zapata, Venezuela and Blanca Hodge, Saint Maarten.

- **62 General Conference 25-31 August, 1996, Beijing, China.**

Theme: The challenge of change: libraries and economic development.

- **63 Council and General Conference, August 31 to September 5, 1997, Copenhagen, Denmark.**

**Theme:** Libraries and Information of Human Development. For further information please contact IFLA 97, Secretary General, Ms. Hellen Niegaard c/o SBT - Nyhavn 31E - DK-1-51 Copenhagen, K - Denmark. Fax: 45 3151 9636.

**Pre-session Seminar:** Bridging information gaps through technology.

### **Meeting of the standing Committee IFLA, LAC need in Managua / Nicaragua, 9-10 March, 1995**

The First Meeting of the Permanent Committee took place from March 9 to March 10, 1995, in Managua (Nicaragua).

Maria Elena Zapata, Elizabeth Maria Ramos de Carvalho, Estela Morales, Birgitta Bergdahl, Teresa Granados, Stella Maris Fernández, Ivone Talamo, Miriam Martínez, Eduardo Villanueva, Blanca Hodge and Alice Miranda attended this meeting.

Two concurrent facts made the large attendance of the Permanent Committee possible: firstly, the fact that ALP financed the participation of the President and Secretary of the Committee, and that of the representatives of Cuba, Costa Rica and St. Martin at the Seminar on "Progress in Librarianship" and, secondly, the supplementary budget granted by IFLA to the Regional Office in order to support the meetings of the Permanent Committee, which thus allowed to partially cover the cost of tickets from Argentina (Stella Maris), from Brazil (Ivone) and the full ticket cost for the representative of Peru (Eduardo), as well as the hotel and travelling expenses of all participants of the Committee during the days of the Meeting (March 9 and 10). The hotel expenses of Ivone and Stella Maris were paid from the beginning of the ALP workshop by the Manager of the Regional Office using the funds from the supplementary budget for participation in the Meeting in Managua. Besides, it was agreed at the Meeting of the Permanent Committee that the remaining part of the IFLA supplementary budget should be used to support the assembly of the Committee in Istanbul.

The following themes will be discussed at the Istanbul conference:

**The professional session.** The open forum for Latin America will have as theme: The future of library materials; its participants will be specialists from Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela.

The workshops organized by the Regional Division will be: Virtual nets and libraries, under the coordination of Maria Elena Zapata, and Modernization of the librarian's profession, under the coordination of Donita Simmons.

The presentation in the Poster Session of the ALP activities in Africa and Latin America.

With reference to the contest "Contributed Papers", a theme was chosen, but its publicizing will depend on the decision by IFLA concerning financing. The IFLA/LAC President will inform the members of the Permanent Committee at the proper time whether the contest will take place next year.

IFLA/LAC is reviewing together with IFLA/HQ the problem of membership rates of the national members bearing in mind the financial difficulties of the countries of the Region. The status and progress reports of the ALP projects were considered and the new projects presented were discussed.

The President, the Secretary and the Manager of the Regional Office reported on the activities performed in 1994.

The Regional Office presented the functions of the Permanent Committee members, reviewing and approving those of the President, Secretary, Regional Manager, Permanent Committee, Correspondents and special advisers. The President requested Stella Maris (Argentina) to review the functions of the Permanent Committee in the General Rules and to present the resulting conclusions in Istanbul. Ivone Talamo has presented a middle term program for IFLA/LAC that has been approved by the Committee. The Manager of the Regional Office declared that she would ask the Latin American participants of the Universal Bibliographical Control Seminar, that took place in Brazil in 1993, for a report on the follow-up of the agreements, for which the regional members will have to get in touch with the participants of their respective countries.

In order to obtain a better performance of the Committee, the procedure for the election of President and Secretary, the form of voting as well as the requirements for the regional Contest have been discussed. Moreover, a subcommittee was formed in order to propose the guidelines for IFLA/LAC/ALP publications.

This Committee is composed by Estela Morales (Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas, CUIB, Mexico); Stella Maris Fernández (Centro de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas, CIB, Argentina) and Teresa Granados (Biblioteca Nacional de Nicaragua). The Standing Committee wishes to express particular gratitude to Mayra Miranda Picasso, Director of the National Library of Nicaragua, to Teresa Granados, Vice-Director of this library, and to the whole group of National Library Staff Members for the support received during the Standing Committee Meetings and during our stay in this country. (Stella Maris Fernandez) **Contributed Paper Competition — IFLA/LAC** The winner of the Contest to attend the IFLA General Conference in Istanbul, Turkey was Georgina Areccli Torres, from Mexico, with the paper "La Biblioteca virtual en los países en vías de desarrollo: un sueño no muy lejano de convertirse en realidad" ("The virtual library: a dream that is not very far from turning into reality"). The prize is a plane ticket and registration fee for the IFLA General Conference in Istanbul/Turkey and presentation of the paper at the Contributed papers Session.

#### • Offices for UAP and International Lending

The voucher scheme developed for the payment of photocopies has been tested by a number of pilot projects. Further information is available from Sara Gould. E.mail: sara.gould@bl.uk. Fax: 0937 546478, c/o British Library, Document Supply Centre, Boston SPA, UK.

#### • Gust Hofman Study Grant

**Purpose:** To enable one new library and information science professional, who is a national of a country where librarianship is in an early stage of development, to study a specific subject in LIS of his or her choice in one or more European countries. The application form should be submitted before February 1. Further information and Application Form are available at IFLA HQ: P.O.Box 95312, 2509, CH The Hague, Netherlands. Fax: 31 (70) 383 4827.

The winner for 1995 is Patricia Zeni Marchiori, Brazil.

#### • Section of Public Libraries

The final version of the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994 was agreed at the UNESCO PGImeeting in Paris, last November. The Section asks to promote it to decision-makers throughout the world.

## **ADVANCEMENT OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE THIRD WORLD - ALP NEWS**

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### **• Seminar on the Progress of Librarianship, in Nicaragua**

Due to its importance, the Editorial of this issue also reports about the Seminar The Progress of Librarianship: a seminar to identify and assess library needs in Central America and the drafting of projects, held in Managua, Nicaragua, 6-9 March, 1995.

Bi-lingual report on the Seminar, by Eduardo Villanueva Mansiffa, Biblioteca Central, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru, member of the Standing Committee, IFLA/LAC.

The Seminar was conducted in most pleasant way by the Nicaragua organizers, headed by Teresa Granados, sub-director, National Library Rubén Darío of Nicaragua. Among the papers presented were those that dealt with the procedures of requesting funds, with emphasis on the forms used by UNESCO and the ALP, and also of some other institutions. There were also some papers on the know-how to requests funds, presenting the kind of approach that is useful. In the three last days, some exercises on drafting and presentation of projects were conducted, using mainly the ALP forms.

The five final projects, which were the outcome of a similar number of workgroups, will be sent, after some fine tuning by the drafters, to the ALP focal point in order to seek funds for them. The presentations of the state of the library profession in Central America were listened to attentively by the attendants. After a round of national papers, work followed on the identification of common needs through international teams, pointing out the Preservation and Conservation Management of new technologies and Training as extremely important areas. The fact alone that the mentioned needs are at the same time issues of primary importance to IFLA through its Core Programs, stresses the relevance of this Seminar and the avenues it opens for intra and inter regional cooperation.

We have to point out that this is the first such event that IFLA organized in the region, and it was welcomed by the Central America colleagues not only as a chance to meet IFLA officials, from the Regional Standing Committee, the Regional Office and the ALP focal point, but

also because this was one of the first occasions when librarians from the region have had the chance to meet and discuss their common worries in a meaningful way, and with the significant presence of all parties involved. IFLA is to be congratulated to have been the facilitator of such a significant occasion.

### **• Doctorate Honoris Causa**

Dr. Thomas Tottie, director of the Universitetsbiblioteket Uppsala, Sweden, where ALP focal point is located, has been given the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the academic community of the University for his distinguished career in the academic and library fields. To this great friend of librarianship and librarians of the Third World, we present the most sincere congratulations for such a well deserved title.

### **• ALPs International Focal Point will remain in Uppsala until the year 2000**

The future location of the international focal point was discussed at the ALP Advisory Committee's appraisal meeting in Uppsala, during the IFLA conference in Havana with IFLA's President, Robert Wedgeworth and Secretary General, Leo Voogt, and at a meeting of the Nordic ALP Support Group. Since the programme's new start in 1991 the secretariat has been hosted by Uppsala University Library, and since 1992 it has been funded by Uppsala University and around 30 Nordic library institutions and associations, as well as a few development agencies. In the programme plans from 1990 it was proposed that IFLA should look at the possibility of finding a host in one of the three regions after the first medium-term period of the programme.

The ALP advisory committee declared, however, that it should be premature to try to move the ALP to a Third World country in the near future, whereas they recommended that IFLA's support to the regional structure ought to increase, so that the regional sections would gradually be able to take on more responsibility. The result of the meeting which the University Librarian and the Core Programme Director had with Leo Voogt and Robert Wedgeworth in Havana was a letter from the Secretary General to the University Librarian, with a request to Uppsala University Library to prolong its hosting of the ALP IFP. The Nordic support group decided at its meeting in Stockholm in November 1994, when both Robert Wedgeworth and Leo Voogt were present, that it will support this request,

and that the Nordic contributors should be asked to continue to fund the office in Uppsala up to the year 2000. Uppsala University had already before that meeting promised to extend its support until the year 2000 with a maximum amount of SEK 200 000 annually (including contributions in kind). The Executive Board at its December meeting allocated NLG 20 000 to ALP, and NLG 30 000 to strengthen the work of the Regional Offices. We are now in the midst of negotiating the future support with our colleagues in the Nordic countries.

Included in the Annual Report for 1994, by Birgitta Bergdahl, ALP Coordinator.

• **Meeting of Iberoamerican Parliamentary Libraries, 1, Mexico, 1993**

The Report of the meeting has just been published by the Cámara de Diputados, México. The following papers have been presented: La importancia de la información para el trabajo legislativo /The importance of the information for the legislative work/, Francisco J. Paoli Bolla, México; Derecho parlamentario e información /Parliamentary law and information/, Nicolás Pérez Serrano, España; Información para el tratamiento de las relaciones internacionales /Information and international relations/, Sen. José Luis Lamadrid Sauza, México; Los letrados y los servicios de información en las Cortes españolas /Scholars and information services in the Spanish Court/, Manuel Gonzalo, España; Redes de información legislativa, Prodasen /Legislative information networks, Carlos M. C. Santoro and Regina C. P. Borges, Brasil; El papel de la información en una legislatura democrática: el caso del Servicio de investigación del Congreso /The role of information in a democratic legislature: the case of the Library of Congress Research Division, William H. Robinson, Library of Congress, USA; Desde Lawn a Glin /From Lawn to Glin/, M. Kathleen Price, Library of Congress, USA.

Panels: Los servicios bibliotecarios y de información en los parlamentos regionales: Parlamento Andino, Parlamento Centroamericano, Parlamento Latinoamericano /Library and information service in the Regional Parliaments/; Los legisladores como usuarios: la información legislativa /Legislators as users: legislative information/, Dep. Cesar Alejandro Monraz; Asamblea Legislativa de Costa Rica /Costa Rica Legislative Assembly/, Dep. Manuel Antonio Bolanos Salas.

At the meeting, National Reports from the following countries have been presented:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, España, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Portugal, República Dominicana, Uruguay, Venezuela.

• **The Association of Library Schools in the Southern Cone - an ALP Core Programme Project**

For the period from 1992 to 1997, the Section for Latin America and the Caribbean has decided, among other things to:

- increase the activities in support of cooperation between libraries in the areas of professional training and education
- introduce means of communications that facilitate a broader knowledge of the development of the libraries in the region.

The project Association of Library Schools in the Southern Cone covers a region comprised by Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and falls well within the scope of these objectives.

An analysis concerning the training of human resources in the region showed the existence of the following common problems:

- lack of a basic and flexible professional profile in keeping with the qualitative changes that take place at international level,
- great dissimilarities in the contents of study programmes, leading to differences in standards of the training of professional staff. This causes problems for them on the labor market, not only in relation to internal transfers or transfers to other countries. In some of these countries, the disparities between standards and titles make it difficult to establish salary tariffs and hinders the development of hierarchical structure for the profession,
- need of further specialized education of teaching staff,
- lack of common standards concerning the terminology within the speciality,
- inefficient use of human resources and material (lack of exchange of specialists and of implementation of common experiences, with expert from outside the region).

When the project proposal was formulated, it was also stated that, as it concerned countries with similar characteristics and since the majority of the problems were permanent and needed permanent solutions, it was absolutely necessary to have access to a centre for analysis, discussions and solutions to the problems that had been identified, as well as for a precise and coherent definition of the emerging labor market.

For this, it was also necessary to strengthen existing infrastructures and propose common strategies through an interest group.

In this way, the library schools of the Southern Cone were provided with a forum for exchange of experiences as well as for coordination and planning of joint activities. The general objective of the project is to allow, through the Association, the carrying out of cooperative actions as teacher level, extension, research and improvement of the training of human resources. The specific objectives are to:

- diagnose the present situation of the librarian and archivist education in the sub-region,
- exchange experiences concerning design, evaluation, and feed-back of the different study programmes, - formulate a basic professional profile which makes it possible to establish unified study programmes,
- design a flexible programme for postgraduate training in LIS,
- Disembark on joint and cooperative actions for the training and further specialization of teachers,
- facilitate the access to international literature in the subject area and promote the production of such literature in Spanish, particularly, in the countries of the region,
- promote the exchange of experiences of teachers and experts and look for funds for the participation of external experts in joint projects and activities in the region, support the development of a standard terminology,
- promote research in the area and implement cooperative means of control and circulation of information on research in progress.

The following schools participate in the project:

Argentina: Departamento de Bibliotecología y Documentación de la Universidad de Buenos Aires,

Chile: Escuela de Bibliotecología de la Universidad de Santiago, Paraguay: Escuela de Bibliotecología de la Universidad de Asunción,

Uruguay: Escuela Universitaria de Bibliotecología y Ciencias Afines de la Universidad de la República - head office of the project.

Report by Stella Maris Fernández, Argentina, IFLA J., 21 (1); 62-63 (abridged by the Editorial Board).

The Report on the first Meeting and the short range planning was published in the Newsletter, n.22.

## NEWS IFLA AFFILIATES AND MEMBERS IN THE REGION

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### ARGENTINA

• The National Library is publishing the journal *Biblioteca* which in its n.4, 1994 carries an article by Stella Maria Fernandes, member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Regional Section of Latin American and Caribbean on the life and destiny of the Alexandria Library including its revival under the sponsorship of UNESCO.

An Association of Library protectors has been supporting the projects and services of the National Library.

• Stella Maris Fernandez has also written the chapter *El libro en Hispanoamérica* published in the *Historia ilustrada del libro español: de los incunables al siglo XVII/ bajo la dirección de Hipólito Escolar*. Madrid, Fundación Germán Sanchez Ruipérez, Pirámide, 1994.

• Carlos A. Cordoba, from the Biblioteca del Instituto Manuel Belgrano, has published an interesting article *El año de las Naciones Unidas para la Tolerancia visto desde una biblioteca escolar en Argentina/The United Nations year of Tolerance from the point of view of a school library in Argentina* in the journal *Educación y Biblioteca*, Madrid, 6 (51), 1994. The subject is treated seriously by the author who sent a copy of it to the Regional Office.

### BRAZIL

• The Fundação Biblioteca Nacional has published three books concerning Brazilian intellectual production: *Bibliografía Brasileira*, vol. 1 AND 2, 1994 - listing the publications sent to the library according to the Law of Legal Deposit; the *Catálogo de Editores Brasileiros* - containing information on 3.000 editors and the *Catálogo de Periódicos Brasileiros Microfilmados* - printed edition of the database in MicroIsis. It comprises 7.400 titles of Brazilian serials from the XIX and XX centuries that were microfilmed through agreements between the National Library and several institutions such as: libraries, archives and universities in the country. The National Library also published a guide of the countrys public libraries *Guia das Bibliotecas Públicas do Brasil*, 1994/95. Biblioteca Nacional,

Av. Rio Branco, 219. Fone: 55-21-2628255. Fax: 55-11-2204173.

- The Biblioteca Mario de Andrade, São Paulo, published an issue of its journal specially dedicated to Preservation of Cultural Assets carrying a bibliography with 568 references. Fax: 55-11-2894645.
- The Programa Nacional de Incentivo à Leitura (National Program of Reading Promotion) published a report on the meetings held on national reading policies reuniones de políticas nacionales de lectura in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the Mercosur - Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and in the Países del Pacto Amazónico (countries of the Amazon Agreement) and in Grupo de los Tres (group of Three) - Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, México y Venezuela. Fax: 55-21-205-9625.
- UNIBIBLI. Union catalogue of the collections of books, serials and thesis in the libraries of the three state universities of the State of Sao Paulo. Its a CD-Rom publication and the 1995 subscription rate is US\$ 160,00. The database was developed using BIREME's technology (Latin America and the Caribbean Center on Health Science Information). Orders to: Sistema de Bibliotecas da USP. Fax: 55-11-815-2142. E.mail: dsibi@brusp.bitnet o dsibi@cat.cce.usp.br. This same system has developed a software called SisCOMUT aiming at document delivery and payment of photocopies. Its cost is US\$ 70,00.
- CAUCUS of the Portuguese Speaking Librarians. The Associação de Documentalistas, Arquivistas e Bibliotecários de Angola - DABA completed one year and is launching the bulletin Publicação de Informação Geral.
- The Associação Catarinense (State of Santa Catarina) de Bibliotecários celebrated its 19th anniversary with a Seminar from 25 to 27 October that gathered 200 librarians. In this occasion they BiblioInfo, a database in MicroIsis with 390 references and respective abstracts concerning papers presented in Congresses and meetings and published in Brazilian librarianship journals from 1986 to 1994.

## CHILE

- The international consultant Maurice Line advised the National Library in its modernization and reorganization processes. Mr. Line, during his sojourn in Chile, lectured to information professionals and general public, in Santiago, at the Universidad Católica on Megatrends of the university libraries for the year 2000 and in Valparaíso at the Universidad Técnica Santa María.

• **Meeting on the diagnosis of the Cooperation Plans between National Libraries of the Cono Sur.** In Santiago professionals were gathered through the initiative of the Biblioteca Nacional del Chile from November 2-4, 1994. The objective of the meeting was to study the feasibility of starting programmes of mutual cooperation aimed at strengthening and modernization of present methods concerning bibliographic process and control. Monographs, serials, publishing and special materials were looked at in order to improve the automated exchange of information. An equal development between the regional libraries is desirable to facilitate their participation in international projects such as the retrieval of the XIX Century press. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the National Libraries of by countries: Argentina, Mr. Hugo Acevedo; Paraguay, Sra. Modesta Goyburu, director; Uruguay, Ms. Mabel Batto, sub-director. The meeting was sponsored by CRESALC/UNESCO-Caracas through PGI.

## • Regional Course on Conservation of Paper in Archives

The course was held between October 3 and November 11 in Santiago de Chile. It was made possible through a shared project between ICCROM - International Center for the study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property and the Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración, Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos de Chile, with the collaboration of the National Library and National Archive. Participants from eleven Latinamerican countries attended the course. Chilean and foreign professionals were the lecturers of the course.

News sent by Ursula Schadlich Sch., coordinator, Relaciones Internacionales de la Biblioteca Nacional.

## CUBA

- The Casa de las Americas is holding a Seminar on Afroamerican Culture in August 1995 and an International Colloquium on Parodia and Satire in the contemporary Latin American prose, next September. E.mail: casa@tinored.cu. Fax: (537) 32-7272/32-5638.
- Summary of present state of library development in Cuba, by Miriam Martínez, José Martí National Library.

## Library Systems

The national library systems of the country consist of:

- José Martí National Library, which operates as a directing center of 369 public libraries;
- National Library for Sciences and Technology, which orients, 760 specialized libraries together with the Documentation and Scientific Technical Information Institute (Instituto de Documentación e Información Científico Técnica - IDICT) of which it is a part;
- Pedagogical Information Centre, instruction centre of more than 4,800 school libraries;
- Havana University Library and 70 university libraries of the country.

### **Building up of library staff**

In Cuba, the basic instruction for librarians occurs on two levels:

- predominantly technical instruction at upper medium level, in which young students all over the country are prepared by means of regular three year courses, which are given by the Librarianship and Documentation School of the Ministry of Culture and Public Health, which works as an instruction centre of educational programs at this level. The Ministries of Culture and Public Health also have their own schools, in the same way as there are courses for workers which are given at centres for improvement belonging to the Ministries of Culture and Science, Technology and Environment;
- instruction at university level, which is given at the University of Havana in regular courses as well as in short courses or those directed to workers with labor links to libraries, documentation and information centres and archives. In these instances, the University of Havana is engaged in the final phase of a project of a level of qualification which is expected to be completed for the course of 1995-98. On the other hand, the University offers different graduate courses which supplement and undergraduate studies that are organized update, according to their specialties, by the institutions that have been recognized as authorized teaching centers to minister graduate courses, such as the José Martí National Library, the IDICT and the National Archives. The Information on Cuba has been reduced due to problems of space and the Newsletter is available for consultation. Besides, an article by E. Setièn entitled Libraries and Library Science in Cuba has been published in IFLA J., 20 (2), 1994, which supplements the summary by Miriam Martinez.

### **GUADELOUPE**

- The Conseil General de Guadeloupe, the country's executive board, has decided to

approve the creation of a **Caribbean Library**, a resource center on the Caribbean, it is a project with regional and international dimension and a place for cultural activities. The Conseil General and the French Government are willing to provide funds for this study according to an agreement they had formed. Meanwhile the reflection on the international organization of the library is going on. A meeting was held in February, organized the Associations of Friends of the Caribbean Library.

News send by Alex Richards to Blanca Hodge, IFLA/LAC Standing Committee member.

### **INFORMATION ON LIBRARY SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA PRESENTED THE IFLA/ALP/RSC SEMINAR ENTITLED "PROGRESSS IN LIBRARIANSHIP: A SEMINAR FOR IDENTIFICATION, AND EVALUATION OF LIBRARY REQUIREMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND WORKING OUT OF PROJECTS", MARCH, 1995.**

#### **COSTA RICA**

- Costa Rica boasts of more than 100 libraries divided as follows: national library, children's, school, public, municipal, university and specialized libraries. About 1,500 students have graduated from schools of librarianship. A qualification in Education is offered that includes Librarianship and Information Sciences, and work is going on with the emphasis on the qualification in Central American Culture Studies, in Information Management and in Library Sciences. Besides, refresher courses and courses in continuous education are being offered. In spite of all efforts made in this area, there are many obstacles to overcome; among these the following stand out: insufficient budgets, incomplete collections, the establishment of national cooperation policies and centralization of material processing, and development of collections, strategies for conservation and preservation of national documents, better qualification in technological developments applied to librarianship (use of technological packages, CD-ROM, on-line search, virtual applications).

#### **EL SALVADOR**

- The problems which hamper the development of libraries in El Salvador, according to information obtained through documentary research can be summarized as follows:

- restrictions in the field are due to the shortage of material, financial and human resources at institutions resulting in a low profile of the administrative structure and insufficient qualification of the staff that works in this field. The most relevant successes to be mentioned refer to the flourishing of information units, greater cooperative organization and application of computer facilities to technical processes.

The National Library of El Salvador commemorates its 125th birthday.

July 5, marks 125 years since the founding of the National Library has been completed. The celebration of the event will start in March.

Among the programmed activities, two will be of great importance. One of them consists of a Golden Panel (Panel-doro) on the definition of the old rare book in El Salvador, the purpose of which is to conceptualize and normalize the national bibliographic heritage. To culminate there will be a campaign in order to collect national bibliography and to form a "Sala Salvadoreña" (a special collection of restricted access).

#### **Library Qualification Program**

The librarians organization of El Salvador has been the base to update their technical knowledge. For this occasion, USID/OHE has programmed to put into practice a one year qualification training for librarians of El Salvador, with the purpose of improving the quality of services in the libraries. The course will be given by the University of Rio Piedras in Puerto Rico and it will be attended by employees of the National Library and by those of other sectors that apply for it and approve the process of selection that will be under the responsibility of the Direction of the Bibliographical and Documentary Heritage for the sector of the Ministry of Education; and under the responsibility of the Librarians Association of El Salvador (ABES) for the member that apply for it.

#### **GUATEMALA**

- In Guatemala, different kinds of library have been established: national, public, school, university, specialized libraries and others; but not all of them have the same level of development either in the capital of the country or in the departmental capitals and even less so in the interior of the country. Besides, there is a shortage of libraries, especially public and school libraries. The most developed libraries are those of universities, firms, associations, research institutes, banks and others, both national and regional, with headquarters in the country. Since the seventies, the National Scientific

and Technological Information System (Sistema Nacional de Información Científica y Tecnológica - SINCYT) has begun to function under the responsibility of the Department of Science and Technology of the General Secretariat for Economic Planning. With the support of the System, or independently from it, other subsystems and information nets have been formed and have connected themselves to others of regional and international nature. Among the products achieved to date there are the following: Bibliographical Bulletins, specialized Bibliographies, Directories of Information Units, Collective Catalogues of Periodical Publications, among others. By: Olga Ramírez Castañeda.

#### **HONDURAS**

- After the restructuring of the Secretariat of Culture and The Arts, extraordinary activities have been developed at the library level such as: the creation of the National Collection of Daily Papers "Ramón Rosa"; the development of public libraries automation at national level, with 53 participants to such effects. Recently, activities have begun with the purpose of creating sound recording services in the National Library. In the near future, a new building will be bestowed for the National Library. The National Bibliographical Yearbook will be issued according to a project to be carried out during the current year. Also in June this year the 5th Meeting of Directors of National Libraries in Central America will take place, and next April the National Council of the Book will be created. The requirements that have been considered for the development of the national library activity are the same as those of all the countries of the region, as it was possible to verify through interchange with other colleagues.

#### **NICARAGUA**

- From the point of view of information infrastructure proposed by Paulina Atherton, basic and key aspects of the library situation in Nicaragua are taken into account; among these we have: material information resources, specialized human resources, situation of the organization level of the sector and the projects and aspirations for the formation of national information policies. She concludes saying that the field presents different degrees of difficulty, which require a lot of support, but that without true will, awareness and evaluation of the importance of information all help and cooperation would be useless, because every development activity requires continuity and

follow up. Finally, she proposes some aspects to be considered about the aims of the seminar for Identification and Evaluation of Development Requirements in the Central American Region promoted by IFLA. By: Rosa Argentina Aguilar.

## GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE REGION

### • UNESCO

**Estadística.** The División of Statistics, UNESCO presented, at the IFLA Conference in Cuba, the paper Library statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, with tables corresponding to a Questionnaire sent to the Región. The paper concludes that no es motivo de preocupación de las autoridades regionales de América Latina y el Caribe.

**New publications:** HOPKINSON, Alan - The Common Communication Format for Information on Cultural Development. Based on the CCF for factual information. Paris, UNESCO, 1994. 79p. (PGI/93/WS15)

The Sector of Culture is developing an International Information System on Cultural Development. One of the tools being developed in this document is the mentioned publication.

• **REPDISCA** can be reached through Internet. E.Mail: [capis@cepis.org.pe](mailto:capis@cepis.org.pe).

• UNESCO's activities in the field of Environmental Information are described in the PGI Unisist Newsletter, 22 (2), 1994.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Please see PUBLICACIONES RECIBIDAS in the Spanish Text.



Standing Committee Meeting, IFLA/LAC, Managua/Nic., 9-10 March 1995.

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