

Mme. CHRISTINE DESCHAMPS PRESIDENTE-ELECT

IFLA is delighted to welcome its new President, Mme Christine Deschamps of the Bibliothèque de l'Université, Paris V - Rene Descartes in Paris, France (pag.3).

NOW ON THE INTERNET !

Visit the regional Office homepage at : <http://members.tripod.com/~iflalacro/ro.html>
(pag.8).

THE LIBRARIAN'S SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

The UBA School of Library Science honored on this occasion professors Emma Linares, Stella Maris Fernández, Omar Lino Benitez and Josefa "Pepita" Sabor. (pag.9).

INFORMATION AT THE DOORS OF A NEW MILLENIUM

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LET'S MEET IN AMSTERDAM !

The 64th IFLA General Conference will be held in Amsterdam from August 16 to 21, 1998. (pag.5)

REGIONAL MEETING ON THE UNESCO MANIFESTO

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SUMMARY

The "Newsletter" is published twice a year in June and December by IFLA's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a major communication tool for IFLA members in the region. Please share your ideas and experiences by sending your contribution and suggestions to the Regional Office.

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The 63rd IFLA General Conference and Council Meeting was held at the Bella Center, Scandinavia's largest exhibition center, in Copenhagen, Denmark, from August 31 through September 5, 1997. This year's conference theme was: "Libraries and Information to Human Development". It was preceded by a pre-conference seminar in Aalborg for professionals from developing countries entitled, "Bridging the Information Gap through Technology".

DANIDA - the Danish Librarian Association - supported the 1997 conference awarding 150 grants to previously selected professionals from developing countries to cover the expenses of enrollment, air fare, lodgings, and per diem. As a result, it was the first time that a large Latin America delegation was able to attend.

In accordance with IFLA Statutes, a new election for president of the IFLA was held to replace the outgoing president, Robert Wedgeworth, who had been elected for the first time in 1991, in Moscow, and re-elected in 1995, in Istanbul. Two candidates ran for the office: Cristina Deschamps, Director, Paris University Library, and Marian Scott from the National Library of Canada. The winner was Cristina Deschamps, who was elected by a majority of the IFLA delegates representing the associations and institutions whose dues for 1997 were not in arrears.

The Danish Committee organized an interactive exhibition in the Round Tower called, "The Library of 2002: a key to knowledge and culture", focusing on libraries, information technology, and the new media. This is the third time in the 30-year period covering 1967 to 1997 that Denmark has hosted IFLA, and the meeting was a remarkable success on all counts. Preparations for the upcoming IFLA General Conference to be held in Amsterdam are now underway, and it promises to be just as successful as all the previous ones have been.

have been.

The last Newsletter issue reported on the seminar, "Tools for Librarianship Development in the Caribbean", held in Martinique. We want to thank SIDA (the Sweden Librarian Association) for the financial support that made possible that seminar.

Librarian Maria Elena Zapata served a four-year term as President of the IFLA / LAC's Section for Latin America and the Caribbean. Her term expired this year. During her presidency, and while she was representative of the Division VIII, Maria Elena was able to accomplish a great deal and was an untiring defender of regional library associations as well as of the upgrading of professional development among all librarians. On behalf of the regional Office and of all LAC members, we wish to express our deepest admiration and appreciation for the wonderful work she has done

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new president of the Section, Jose Adolfo Rodriguez Gallardo, who is Mexican, in addition to the new members of the Standing Committee. We wish them all success in their new positions. The Newsletter is at your service to disseminate regional news and works

It is a pleasure to know that Mr. Leo Voogt, who together with his staff is doing a so good work for the Federation, will continue as Secretary-General.

As 1997 comes to an end, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We would like to extend our thanks to all Newsletter collaborators, especially the Brazilian SC members, the State of São Paulo Official Press, IMESP, for its financial support of the RO, and the editors and translators of the Newsletter: Stella Maris Fernández, Blanca Hodge and Pamela Howard-Reguindin. We would also like to thank the ALP Coordinator, Birgitta Bergdahl and her staff as well as the IFLA Coordinator of Professional Activities, Winston Roberts, for the continuous support of RO activities.

IFLA AND ITS SECTIONS

IFLA HQ

IFLA 97 Election Results

IFLA is delighted to welcome its new President, Mme Christine Deschamps of the Bibliothèque de l'Université, Paris V - Rene Descartes in Paris, France. Mme Deschamps has been active within IFLA for a number of years, both as a

Member of IFLA's Executive Board and as Chair of IFLA's Publications Committee. Upon her election, Mme Deschamps stated that "...the diversity of [her] professional experience should bring something new to the international community of librarians, in order to lead IFLA into the year 2000 in a good library environment, to develop cultural exchange and professional training in every country, to standardize all professional activities, and to increase the recognition of the culturally different identities within IFLA, while developing multilinguism, acknowledging the original national cultures and traditions, and promoting technical innovation". Mme Deschamps promised to further strengthen IFLA's role as a truly international organization and will strive to make IFLA more accessible to IFLA members who do not have English as their first language.

On the occasion of her election, the French government pledged its firm support for Mme Deschamps' Presidency: As of January 1998, she will be free to work exclusively on this activity, having been released of all other responsibilities in France. Furthermore, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research is creating a special job position for her, dedicated to this task. (press release: October 9, 1997)

Christine Deschamps, President-Elect Press Conference, September 4th, 1997, Copenhagen

In the press conference Ms. Deschamps talked about her visions for IFLA and about the situation in France where four city councils have imposed their political agenda in their city libraries.

Ms. Deschamps feels that a rebalance of power in the IFLA organisation is necessary as too much influence has resided in Europe and North America. The developing countries must be given the opportunity of expressing themselves and their opinions within IFLA. This was in no way a criticism of previous strategy but not having English as her first language Ms. Deschamps fully understands the communication problems which can arise and therefore place these countries outside the center of influence. The five IFLA languages should be used more for the exposition of information and we must ensure that developing countries have access to information technology.

The President of IFLA also stressed the importance of standards within all areas of library work and development. While she recognised the fact that not all countries can be on the same level at the same time, we must still work hard to promote standards or these countries will remain isolated for ever. These standards are not only applicable when talking about IT strategies, but encompass all areas of library routines, from the handwritten catalogue card to state-of-the-art automated library systems.

Ms. Deschamps also praised DANIDA for sponsored so many delegates at the conference held in Denmark. She hoped that this would be possible at many IFLA conferences, but admitted that some countries would have trouble in providing the necessary funds for similar grants.

Ms. Deschamps also talked about the situation in France and gave a brief outline of the background of what is happening at the moment. Librarians have been asked to remove certain books from their collections and buy books that they would not otherwise have done. These were often books expressing extreme right wing views and promoting racist and anti-semitic feeling. Some librarians have been driven to resign for not following the instructions of these city councils. At present there is no library legislation which can be used in the defence of the independence of the librarian but it is hoped that a bill will be put through which can be used in the campaign against this threat to our profession.

It is very important that IFLA takes a stand against this threat to the role of the librarian and many of our Scandinavian colleagues have already reacted. Asked by a member of the press what we could do, Christine Deschamp answered that we should write articles and put pressure on our politicians and institutions.

(Andrew Cranfield - IFLA Express 8 , Friday 5 September, 1997)

Newly elected members of IFLA's Executive Board

Newly elected members of IFLA's 9-member strong Executive Board include: Ekaterina Genieva (Russian Federation), Nancy John (USA), Derek Law (UK), Klaus Dieter Lehmann (Germany), Kay Raseroka (Botswana) and Sun Beixin (China). With the exception of Ms Genieva and Ms Sun who were re-elected for a final term of two years, all will serve for four years. Sissel Nilsen (Norway) was elected Chair of the Professional Board and will also serve as ex officio member of the Executive Board.

During the conference, Chairs of Coordinating Boards were also elected. They will become members of the Professional Board. Elected were Winston Tabb (USA), Division of General Research Libraries; Ed Valauskas (USA), Division of Special Libraries; Ilona Glashoff (Germany), Division of Libraries Serving the General Public; Ingrid Parent (Canada), Division of Bibliographic Control; Marjorie Bloss (USA), Division of Collections and Services; Ralph Manning (Canada), Division of Management and Technology; Lis Byberg (Norway), Division of Education and Training.; Stan M. Made (Zimbabwe), Division of Regional Activities.
(press release: October 9, 1997)

The outgoing IFLA President, Mr Robert Wedgeworth (1991-1997), was unanimously elected as an IFLA Honorary President

The outgoing IFLA President, Mr Robert Wedgeworth (1991-1997), was unanimously elected as an IFLA Honorary President. Tribute was paid to his many past achievements within IFLA in a highly original "Ceremony of Hats" during the Closing Session. Addressing Mr Wedgeworth, Mr Leo Voogt said that the type of ceremony was "...in keeping with an outstanding quality that you have demonstrated in your years as IFLA President, namely the ability to wear many hats. You have presented yourself as American internationalist, as librarian, as academic librarian, as library educator, as association manager, as member of a library association, in short as a colleague". Hats hailing from each country where an IFLA Conference was held during Mr Wedgeworth's tenure as IFLA President - India, Cuba, Spain, Turkey, China, and Denmark - were presented to him, accompanied by music particular to that country and a message in the indigenous language. (press release: October 9, 1997)

ALA Melvil Dewey Medal recipient named

Robert Wedgeworth, university librarian and professor of library administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is the 1997 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Melvil Dewey Award. The award, a citation and medal donated by OCLC/Forest Press, Inc., is given to an individual or group for recent creative professional achievement in library management, training, cataloging and classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship.

Wedgeworth was dean of the School of Library Service at Columbia University in New York from 1985-1992. He was executive director of ALA from 1985-1992. He serves as a trustee for the Newberry Library in Chicago and chairs ALA's Advisory Committee for the Office of Information Technology. "Robert Wedgeworth seemed a natural choice for this award because of the parallels in his career and that of Melvil Dewey, with Wedgeworth leading ALA as executive director, serving as dean of the School of Library Service at Columbia, directing a university library, and working toward the improvement of library services through adoption of the information technology of the day," said Janet Swan Hill, chair of the Dewey Award Jury. Additionally, if the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) had existed when Dewey was alive, I think it's likely that he, like Wedgeworth, would have served as its president."

Wedgeworth is the author of "The Starvation of Young Black Minds: The Effects of the Book Boycotts in South Africa," (1989) and "Issues Affecting the Development of Digital Libraries in Science and Technology" (1996).

He is the recipient of the International Council of Archives Medal of Honor, the Most Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois and the 1989 ALA Joseph Lippincott Award.

He received a bachelor's degree from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind., and a master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Guust van Wesemael Literacy Prize

The details of the Guust van Wesemael Literacy Prize has been revised: according to the new procedure, it will be awarded every two years, starting in 1997, until the funds are exhausted. There were three applications this year (from Malawi, Ethiopia and Peru). The Professional Board's selection panel selected the application submitted by Ms Carmen Checa de Silva (Peru), on behalf of the Public Library Service of the city and region of Piura. The prize recognises a consistent record of major achievements in the promotion of adult literacy in Piura. The prize money will be used for a project to "organise and execute a literacy and post-literacy programme to promote the formation of microenterprises using local goods" in the small town of Tangarara, in the Piura region. (press release: October 9, 1997)

New IFLA Grant launched during IFLA 97!

On the occasion of the retirement of Robert Wedgeworth, President of IFLA (1991-1997), the US National Associations in IFLA Membership have proposed the establishment of a special Fund for IFLA Conference Participation from the Developing World. The IFLA Executive Board accepted this proposal with great enthusiasm during the IFLA 97 Conference and will be working with the American library community and other interested colleagues to establish the particulars. More news of this will be posted on IFLA-L, in IFLA Journal and also on IFLA's Web Site: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/> (press release: October 9, 1997)

Let's meet in Amsterdam - 64th IFLA General Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 16 - August 21, 1998

The Netherlands Library Community has the honour and pleasure to invite all professionals and decision makers in the library world to attend and participate in the 64th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions, to be held in Amsterdam from August 16 to 21 1998. Simultaneously an exhibition on all the latest topics in the library world will be organized in the RAI Congress Centre, where the General Conference will take place. The Netherlands Organizing Committee sincerely hopes you will join and present your ideas and experiences

so that from the dialogue new ideas can grow and new signposts can be built to direct us into the 21st century.

In 1998 the IFLA conference organizers hope that thousands of colleagues will pause on this crossroads in Amsterdam. The theme of the meeting offers scope for an exchange of experiences on the role libraries and librarians can play in bridging cultures at local, national and international levels. It calls for reflection on the role of the information professional to increase awareness and access to the many media now available for the dissemination of information and for cooperation between all the players in the information chain (writers, academics, publishers and librarians).

Libraries in the Netherlands have a well established tradition of cooperation with each other. More recently the cooperation is extending to other partners in the information chain. In Amsterdam we hope to show you some of the results of that cooperation. How libraries of all kinds, work together to meet the challenges of a multi-cultural, multi-lingual community; how as information professionals, we try to lower the barriers - at local levels - between information have's and have not's. We will offer you examples of how our public libraries are facing the challenges of an increasingly complex society so that they can maintain their pivotal social, cultural and educational role. To that are added opportunities to exchange experiences on how libraries increasingly support small and medium sized businesses. We will show how publishers and libraries can work together, and how specific training programs of library professionals tackle the extra demands made by the multi-lingual and multi-cultural nature of our clients.

The IFLA conference will prove to be a meeting of minds to discuss the problems we share. A forum on which we can also formulate strategies to close the widening gap between groups that have access to libraries and those who do not. An opportunity to increase awareness of the uneven distribution of library and information resources at the global level.

Organizing Committee:

President

Rudi van der Velde

President of the Netherlands Federation of Library Associations. Director of the Netherlands Association of Public Libraries

Vicepresidents

Wim van Drimmelen

Chief Executive of the National Library

Norbert van den Berg Chief Librarian of Amsterdam University

Secretary General

Piet Schoots

Library consultant; former director of the Rotterdam Public Library and former member of the IFLA Executive Board

IFLA Council Resolutions

1. The IFLA Executive Board has reviewed the report of the Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (CAIFE) and recommends that it be accepted by the Council. The deliberations of the Committee, the Guest Lectures at the past two General Conferences and the interest shown by the membership in this topic suggest that IFLA establish some continuing mechanism to address this important area of activity.

Resolved,
that the IFLA Council recommends that its Executive Board establish a Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression that will advise IFLA on matters of international significance to libraries and librarianship in this area, including, but not limited to:

- Censorship of library materials.
- Ideological, economic, political or religious pressures resulting limitations on access to information in libraries, or restrictions on librarians and other information specialists who provide reference and other information services. (Accepted by Council 5 September 1997 Copenhagen, Denmark)

2. IFLA has for the past several years benefitted from the advice and assistance of a Copyright Adviser who attended relevant meetings where copyright matters were addressed, drafted position papers on behalf of IFLA, and generally represented IFLA interests with respect to copyright and intellectual property matters. Our success in coordinating IFLA efforts with a group of copyright specialists in order to represent the interests of librarians and libraries at the WIPO treaty negotiations on copyright and intellectual property matters has raised the question of how IFLA should position itself to address such questions in the future.

Resolved,
that the IFLA Council recommends that its Executive Board establish a Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters that will advise IFLA and its constituent groups with respect to:

- Copyright and Intellectual Property
- Economic and trade barriers to the acquisition of library materials
- Disputed claims of ownership of library materials
- Authenticity of electronic texts
- Subscription and license agreements
- Other legal matters of international significance to libraries and librarianship.

(Accepted by Council, 5 September 1997 Copenhagen, Denmark)

IFLA / ALP

Additional Grants and Scholarships

Since 1994, IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (IFLA-ALP) has supported scholarships and attachments programmes in Asia and the Pacific with funding from Sida, FINNIDA, Swedish and Finnish Library Associations.

In Africa the "Bart Nwafor Staff Development Programme" began this year with funding from NORAD. The IFLA Regional Office for Africa is responsible for the programme. This programme was established to commemorate Bart Nwafor (1939-1991), one of Africa's most energetic and pioneering representatives in the international library community and an inspiring and key player within IFLA.

Funded by NCLIS and supervised by Elsa Ramirez Leyva at CUIB, UNAM, Mexico, a programme has also been launched in Latin America and the Caribbean along similar lines entitled "Attachments in information, bibliographic control and information technology". (press release: October 9, 1997)

Project reports

The publications can be ordered from ALP International Focal Point, c/o Uppsala University Library, P O Box 510, S-751 20 Uppsala, Sweden. The publications are free of charge for IFLA members in developing countries.

You may pay (preferably in Swedish Crowns) by Postal giro or Eurocheque. Payments by Postal giro should be made to 112 44 209, Föreningen IFLA-ALP, c/o Uppsala Universitetsbibliotek, Box 510, 751 20 Uppsala. The handling charge is 50 SEK. Please enclose copy of your payment when you send the order. The publications will then be dispatched immediately.

1. The Advancement of librarianship. A workshop to identify and assess needs in Indochina and Myanmar and to formulate project proposals. Proceedings of the workshop held in Hanoi, Vietnam, June 2-4, 1994. Edited by Birgitta Bergdahl and Pensri Guaysuwan. Uppsala University Library, 1994. 100 pp. ISBN 91-85092-37-1. Price: 100 SEK

2. Guidelines for library service. By the IFLA Round Table on Audiovisual Media. Translated into Arabic by Yaser Abdel-Motey. Edited by Birgitta Mossadek-Sandell and Yaser Abdel-Motey. Uppsala University Library, 1995. 20 pp. ISBN 91-85092-38-X. Price: 50 SEK

3. Seminar on information provision to rural communities in Africa. Proceedings of the seminar held in Gaborone,

Botswana, 22-25 June, 1994. Edited by Eve Johansson. Uppsala University Library, 1995. 150 pp. ISBN 91-85092-39-8. Price: 150 SEK

4. Libraries for literacy in geographically and socially isolated communities. Final report of IFLA Pre-Session Seminar, Matanzas, Cuba, 15-19 August, 1994. Compiled by Barbro Thomas. Uppsala University Library, 1995. 42 pp. ISBN 91-85092-41-X. Price: 50 SEK

5. El progreso de la biblioteconomía: Un seminario para la identificación y evaluación de las necesidades bibliotecarias de Centroamérica y la elaboración de proyectos. Memorias del seminario en Managua, Nicaragua, 5-8 marzo, 1995. Editadas por Teresa Granados y Birgitta Bergdahl. Uppsala University Library, 1995. 82 pp. ISBN 91-85092-44-4 Price: 100 SEK

6. Guidelines for school libraries. By Frances L. Carroll. Translated into Arabic by Yaser Abdel-Motey. Uppsala University Library, 1995. 83 pp. ISBN 91-85092-45-2 Price: 100 SEK

7. Guide to institutions supporting librarianship in developing countries. Compiled by Birgitta Sandell. Uppsala University Library, 1996. 71 pp. ISBN 91-85092-46-0 Price: 100 SEK

8. La diffusion de l'information dans les communautés rurales en Afrique. Actes du séminaire tenu à Gaborone, Botswana, 20-25 juin, 1994. Edité par Eugène William Ndiaye en coll. avec Antoinette Fall Corréa. B.L.D. Bibliothèque-Lecture-Développement, Dakar, 1996. Price: 150 SEK

9. Guidelines for library services to deaf people. By John Michael Day. Translated into Arabic by Ahmad Al-Khalifah. Uppsala University Library, 1997. ISBN 91-85092-48-7 Price: 100 SEK

10. Tools for library development. Proceedings of the workshop held in Martinique, 10-13 March, 1997. Edited by Gunilla Natvig. Uppsala University Library, 1997. 165 pp. ISBN 91-85092-47-9 Price: 100 SEK

11. A training package for rural public libraries. By The Department of Non-Formal Education, Bangkok, Thailand. Uppsala University Library, 1997. 35 pp. ISBN 91-85092-50-9 Price: 100 SEK

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Regional Meeting on the UNESCO Manifesto on Public Libraries (ALP Project 333)

This meeting will be held from March 24-27, 1998, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and we are counting on the collaboration of IFLA's Public Library Section.

In an extraordinary meeting set up by the President of the LAC Section, the goals and the methodology to be adopted were discussed and which countries would be invited to send delegates was decided upon by the members of the Section SC.

The General Coordinator of the meeting will be librarian Maria Conceição da Gama Santos, President of the FEBAB Public and School Library Commission and Director of the Bahia State Public Library System. Members of the Brazilian and Venezuelan IFLA / LAC SC, the Brazilian Ministry of Culture, and the Brazilian National Public Library System / National Library Foundation will participate on the Organizing Commission.

This seminar will be made possible thanks to ALP, SIDA, and DANIDA financial support

IFLA / LAC

IFLA / LAC Section Standing Committee Meeting. August 29-September 5, 1997, Copenhagen, Denmark.

With almost all members present, two sessions were held: one open and other closed. In the first session it was introduced the DANIDA supported Latinamerican and Caribbean delegation representing the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Some delegates who attended the Aalborg seminar made commentaries about that seminar.

Session 30 August 1997

Presents:

Maria Elena Zapata, President
Miriam Martinez, Secretary
Stella Maris Fernandez, Member
Clara Budnik, Member
Marie Françoise Bernabe, Member
Sueli A. de Amaral, Member
Ivonne Talamo, Member
Blanca Hodge, Member
Eduardo Villanueva, Member

Pamela Benson, Member
Alice Miranda, Member
Gloria Rodriguez, Member

Advisor : Rosa Maria Fernandez de Zamora

Regional Office Manager: Elizabeth R. de Carvalho

ALP Programme : Gunilla Natvig

In the closed session, Jose Adolfo Rodriguez Gallardo (Mexico) was elected President of the Section and Miriam Martinez (Cuba) was re-elected Secretary.

In the meeting was discussed the latest version of the Section Medium Term Program and analysed the President/Secretary and RO Manger reports, as well as ALP projects. It was recorded in the minute of the meeting the excellent work Maria Elena Zapata has done as president of the Section.

Now on the Internet! The IFLA Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office establishes a homepage.

On October 16, the IFLA Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office gave birth to a new website at <http://members.tripod.com/~iflalacro/ro.html>. The site was developed to improve communications between IFLA and librarians and information professionals in the region and to reduce postage costs for mailing the Newsletter. The site is divided into the following sections: What is IFLA?; The Regional Office; The ALP Program; The Newsletter; Useful Sites. The page is in Spanish, English and Portuguese. We invite you to visit the homepage and send us your comments and suggestions

IFLA / SECTION ON CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING

Requirements for a format for classification data

In January 1997, the joint Working Group's recommendation on UNIMARC-compatible documentation requirements was approved by the two Sections for consideration by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC). The recommendation is the development of a UNIMARC format for clasification data that parallels the contents and development of the MARC Format for Classification Data in order to support the data interchange of classification systems represented in either format. The recommendation was accepted by PUC at its March meeting and PUC has now established a working Group on a UNIMARC Classification Format. (Newsletter, Section on Classification and Indexing, no.16, May, 1997)

IFLA / SECTION OF ART LIBRARIES

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes under transformation

The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes has been closed to the public since March 1996 in order to carry out major restoration work. With strong Government backing the Museum is presently moving all its works of art and will later also move its offices. Restoration work will also include the physical expansion of the Museum, including the present Palacio de Bellas Artes (established 1953) which will house the collections of Cuban art from antiquity to the present; the old headquarters of the Centro Asturiano, a very large building built in an eclectic style in 1927 will house the rest of the collections of ancient art and European art (E.U., England, Flanders, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, Latin America, Spain), as well as valuable collections of prints and drawings. The building has a large basement which will be useful as a storage area. The third building is the old Barracks (built in 1764) where curators and administrative personnel will be housed.

In spite of being closed to the public the Museum has continued to carry out its normal operations, organising exhibitions in other venues and abroad. In 1996 seven national exhibitions were inaugurated and this year three other exhibitions have been organised in Cuba and four in Japan, Madrid, Salvador and Valencia. A Museum Bulletin has been launched with the intention of keeping all interested institutions and individuals informed of the activities, events and projects of this Cuban institution.

The Museum library, the Centro de Información "Rodriguez Morey", has not been left out of all these developments. An inventory of all collections has been carried out (books and pamphlets, exhibition catalogues, serials, photographic negatives and photographs). They have been stored in labelled boxes and will be moved to other premises with sound storage standards (concerning environmental conditions, conservation, security and lighting). During the restoration work we will continue with the processing of all our collections (books, catalogues, serials and special collections material) and with their automation. At the same time we will continue our public service directed at the specialists and scholars of the Museum. Particular attention will be given to the professional development of our staff (both national and international) in order to achieve and sustain high standards of performance and deal with technical advances in information.

(Veronica Lavin Isax Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes Havana, CUBA)

NEWS OF IFLA AFFILIATES AND MEMBERS IN THE REGION

ARGENTINA

The Librarians' School of the University of Buenos Aires celebrates 75 years.

Seventy-five years since the establishment of the career of library science in Argentina was celebrated on August 1, 1997 at the School of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Buenos Aires. Presiding over the event was the Dean of the School, Dr. Luis Yanez. He was accompanied by the director of the Library Science and Documentation Department; Professor Elsa Barber; Professor Lidia Revello (representing the faculty) in addition to representatives from alumni past and present. Among the guests were teachers, students, graduates and authorities from the university.

The UBA School of Library Science was the first such school in Latin America and counts many distinguished names among its graduates. Honored on this occasion were professors Emma Linares, Stella Maris Fernández (member of the IFLA / LAC SC), Omar Lino Benitez and Josefa "Pepita" Sabor. (Informativo ABGRA, No.12, Septiembre 1997).

Argentina: XXXII National Librarian's Congress and 24th International Book Fair in Buenos Aires, April 14-May 4, 1998

Year after year, this prestigious International Book Fair unites Argentine publishers and book distributors with those from 32 countries in over 400 exhibit stands. The event also allows the visiting public to participate in over 600 events that feature outstanding Argentine and international personalities.

The XXXII National Librarian's Congress, the International Workshop for Book Professionals and a new edition of the Workshop on Education will take place from April 14-17, before the opening of the 24th International Book Fair in Buenos Aires.

Theme of the XXXII Congress: The place of the library in the global village.

The proposed sub-themes are: New forms of cooperation, professional development, developing services and products, information policies, labor market, legislation, and information technology.

Persons interested in submitting papers for presentation should send them in by January 9, 1998 to:
Comité de Selección de Trabajos
XXXII Reunión Nacional de Bibliotecarios
Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de la República Argentina
Av. Corrientes 1642 1er. Piso 2do. Cuerpo, of. 22
1042 Buenos Aires Argentina
Fax (54 1) 382-4821
E-mail: reuniones@Abgra.org.ar
abgra@interprov.com

For more information about the Fair:
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Av. Córdoba 744, P.B., Dto. 1
1054 Buenos Aires - Argentina
Tel.: (54) (1) 322-2225/2135
Fax: (54) (1) 325-5681
E-mail: fund@libro.satlink.net
(Informativo ABGRA, No.12, September 1997)
(Stella Maris Fernández)

Second Latin American Congress for Translation and Interpretation

Organized by the College of Public Translators of the City of Buenos Aires, this congress will take place in Buenos Aires from April 23-25, 1998.

The College will accept panel proposals and papers on these themes: Literary translation, specialized translation, legal translation, translation theory, interpreting, terminology, translation and Spanish, "minority" languages, translators and interpreters in the world, linguistic policy, translation and culture, translation and the media, and translation and the Internet.

Dates: October 31, 1997 is the deadline for receiving abstracts (200 words maximum in Spanish); January 16, 1998 is the deadline for receiving the completed papers (which may be in Spanish, French, English, or Portuguese).

For more information:
CTPCBA
Callao 289 4° Piso,
1022 Buenos Aires
Tel./Fax 54 1 371-8616, 372-7961, 372-2961 y 373-4644
E-mail: postmaster@bibtra.edu.ar

(Stella Maris Fernández)

National History Academy

From the 23-26 of September the National History Academy sponsored a course entitled "The Book in Argentina from the Vice Regency Period to the end of the XIX Century." There were four lectures: "Books and readings from the era of illustrations" by Dr. Daisy Rípodas Ardanaz; "Books and readings in Buenos Aires: from the May Revolution to the Presidency of Rivadavia" by Alejandro E. Parada; "The press, journalism and the book in the Rosas period" by Professor Josefa E. Sabor; "The press, journalism, and the book in the second half of the XIX century" by Dr. Nestor Tomas Auza. (Stella Maris Fernández)

Argentine Society of Information

The Argentine Society of Information is a non-profit institution established on February 2, 1997. With roots in the Center for Bibliographic Studies since 1987, it is dedicated to the study of methods of social communication. Its principal character and current objectives are to promote and develop studies concerning diverse aspects of documentation and information.

Programs:

- * Its first program of activities includes bibliographic studies about social communication, especially in Argentina;
- * Program dedicated to the compilation and study of "Dostoievskiana," the international bibliography of works by and about Fyodor Dostoievski;
- * To gather all Argentine bibliographies dedicated to dynamic bibliography;
- * Specialized studies on library science;
- * Organization of the Museum of the Word and the Image;
- * Department of Publications

Future courses:

- * Cycles of journal publications
- * Invitation to exchanges (or reevaluation of the useless)
- * WinIsis
- * Economics of Information

For more information:

Sociedad argentina de Información
3 de Febrero 2809, 4° D
1429 Buenos Aires
Tel. (01) 786-4821
Fax (01) 782-4090
Horario: 8 a 13 hs.
E-mail: sai@siscor.bibnal.edu.ar
<http://www.angelfire.com/ar/soarin>

(Stella Maris Fernández)

1996 Census of Popular Libraries in Argentina

With the goal of identifying and publicizing popular libraries in Argentina, CONABIP contracted a private research company, Analogias, to compile a census. The title of the project (started in 1996) is "Survey and Categories of Popular Libraries." The census, which was done from June through September, has been an invaluable tool to disseminate exhaustive and timely information about governmental support for the libraries and for promoting the services of these libraries.

A few of the highlights from the study show:

Number of Libraries - Argentina has 1,605 active popular libraries serving 32, 615, 528 inhabitants.

Books - The combined total of books in these libraries numbers 14,180,700.

Library Patrons - Projections based on the relative figures gathered indicate a total of 18,503,350 would be using the popular libraries on an annual basis.

Location - 82% of the libraries are in urban areas; 6% in semi-urban areas; and 12% in rural areas.

Types: 73% are popular libraries; 19% are popular-public; 8% are public.

BRASIL

Seminar on Management of Librarian and Information Sciences Professionals Associations and Unions (IFLA Round Table on Management of Librarian Associations - RTMLA / Model Library Project - 2nd. Phase)

During the 18th Brazilian Library and Documentation Congress in July 1997 in the State of Maranhão, Brazil, a seminar on Librarian Associations and Union Management was held - in continuation of the "Model Library Project"- and organized by the Minas Gerais Librarian Association (ABMG - FEBAB) and the IFLA / LAC Regional Office.

The presidents and directors of several Brazilian institutions took part in the event, which stimulated debate on redefining the role of these institutions for the future. Needless to say, the seminar was a great success. The ABMG has already sent its report to the RTMLA / IFLA.

A new health library for a new century

At last, the School of Public Health of the University of Sao Paulo has constructed a new building in which space was reserved for a new library. After two years of planning, construction and moving, the "New Library for a New Century" was inaugurated on February 14, 1997.

The informational infrastructure includes 80,000 volumes, 17 bibliographic databases and Internet access, 75 microcomputers (including 34 for public use and multimedia), 150 reading stations with 24 dedicated to private study, open stacks, in addition to interlibrary loan services. (Ad Saúde, ano IV, no.1, agosto, 1997)

Project Dial-a-library at the Catholic University (PUC) of Campinas Library School

The Library School of the PUC Campinas has launched a new service called Project Dial-a-Library (Disque-Biblio) which is designed to facilitate research services to elementary and high school students and teachers.

The school is open to comments and suggestions. Disque-Biblio: 55-19-735-5859.

(Edilze Bonavita Martins Mendes)

Brazilian Chamber of the Book: Digital Object Identifier video

The Brazilian Chamber of the Book has received a video that demonstrates the precepts and operation of the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system. This system is being studied as a way to identify any object transmitted or saved in digital format. Anyone interested in viewing the video must do so at the Chamber's facilities. For more information: <http://www.ipa-ue.org>.

(CBL Eletrônico, Ano I, No. 0, 04/07/1997)

The new Librarians' Law of Brazil

PL 3493-D/93 was approved by the Chamber of Deputies on December 11, 1996. The project currently rests in the Federal Senate and later will be passed on to the office of the President. The proposal is being closely followed by the Federal Council of Librarians (CFB) and its president, Zeneide Pantoja, who worked jointly with Parliamentary and legal advisors of the CFB. The project enjoys the support of all regional councils of librarians and their directors. (Informativo CRB-5, Salvador, v.12, no.1, jan/abr, 1997)

The Seeds of a National Strategy for the Development of Virtual Libraries

The new Brazilian Task Force on Virtual Libraries of the Internet "Gestor Group" has just developed a series of basic guidelines for the development and design of virtual libraries. The initiative is noteworthy for the attempt to establish policies in an area that is particularly complex and scarcely regulated

in this region, and to serve as an example for other professionals and leaders in the information field. Three basic guidelines are proposed:

1. Participation in virtual space: first priority.. "that library leadership define Internet access as a primary goal to be reached as soon as possible and that necessary actions are taken to find resources, establish the information technological infrastructure and make organizational changes."
2. Improving the information professional: key to transition. "Active Internet participation in Brazilian libraries requires human resources capable of promoting the transition from traditional processes, methods, products and services to the internet environment and later, the creation and operation of products and services that are only viable in virtual libraries."
3. Digitalization of information: towards electronic information sources. "The central element of the traditional library transformed into a virtual library is composed of information sources organized into electronic archives, including reference catalogs, books, and electronic journals..." The operation and generation of these products should comply with national and international standards so that records can be shared and transferred through the online network. (Strategic guidelines for creating virtual libraries in Brazil In: Ciencias de la Informacion. Brasilia. v.26. n.2 pp.177-179. 1997)

COLOMBIA

Information Services to the Community

The Information Services to the Community (SIC) of the Antioquia COMFENALCO Culture and Library Department was established in 1990. Following the successes of UNESCO and the National Autonomous Institute of Venezuela with MicroIstis, that system was adopted to be used by the SIC. Taking on a dynamic of its own, there is now a multimedia software being developed that will allow networking and more user friendly interaction that was not possible with the earlier version. The service has gained recognition from within the institution and the general community for its work in consolidating decentralized projects for branch libraries of COMEFENALCO and the Metro Stations of Medellin, among others. (Adriana María Betancur Betancur)

CUBA

A New Door Opens for the Continuing Education and Exchange between Information Professionals

Since 1988, Latin American and international librarians and information professionals have been meeting in Havana, Cuba to exchange ideas and experiences about the challenges facing

the profession over the past decade.

The latest meeting, INFO 97: Information, Knowledge and Globalization brought together over 500 participants. Representatives from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries, 6 European countries and others from North America discussed issues in more than 170 seminars, panels, roundtables, workshops, fora and colloquia.

The distinctive modalities of the conference dealt with new management techniques, information technologies, the modern information professional, education and research, information for industry, business and specialized sectors among other pertinent topics.

Very soon most of the papers presented will be available on the internet at:

<http://www.ceniai.inf.cu/eventos>.

INFO'97 also served to mark the celebration of important regional meetings such as the Information Policy Specialists meeting organized by UNESCO, the council meeting of the Information Program of Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOLAC) and the LATINDEX (Latin American Index of Scientific Publications meeting

"Information at the doors of a new millenium"

This is the theme of the new INFO which will open it's doors in October of 1999.

Topics under consideration are:

- *Communication and Information technologies of the new century,
- *Use and access of information in different times and situations
- *New styles of information-generation as an expression of repositioning information serices.
- *Demands and directions of the information professional at the dawn of a new century.
- *User needs and demands in the new era
- *New conditions and the impact of necessary changes for information institutions. are Spanish and English.

The official languages of INFO'99 are Spanish and English.

For more information contact:

Mail: Comité Organizador. Congreso Internacional INFO'99
Apartado postal 2019. La Habana 10200, Cuba.

Teléf.: 53-7-635500

Fax: 53-7-338237

Correo electrónico: info@ceniai.inf.cu

INTERNET: <http://www.ceniai.inf.cu/eventos>

MÉXICO

University of Colima— Electronic Libraries and Information Technology Internships

Objectives: To introduce the participants to the latest technologies for storing and retrieving information, teleinformatics and electronic libraries in a "learning by doing" fashion. To guide and instruct librarians and other information professionals in the experiences and daily practices of the University of Colima.

Methodology: Participants will participate in lectures and receive materials related to the origin, development and present day situation of the University's experiences in these topics. Visits are planned for the Department for Information Services and Technology, Library Programs, Department of Telematic Services, National Center for Compact Disk Production, and Center for the Production of Teaching Media.

The principal component of the program is the direct participation in the daily work of one or more areas of interest as a member of the work group.

Duration: Although the minimum recommended is two weeks, this could be expanded depending on the interest of the participant.

Costs: the internship is free of charge. The participant only pays his/her transporation, lodging and meal expenses.

For more information:

Universidad de Colima

Biblioteca de Ciencias "Lic. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado"

Dirección General de servicios Bibliotecarios

Departamento de Capacitación

Av. Gonzalo de Sandoval 444, A.P. 134, C.P. 28040

Colima, Colima, México

Lic. Patricia Morales

E-mail: paramo@volcan.ucol.mx

Tel.: 91 (331) 46622 y 43130

Fax: 91 (331) 43130

(Lourdes Feria)

International Seminar on Bibliographic Control

It will be held in April 1998 in Mexico City sponsored jointly by the CUIB/UNAM, the UBICIM Program of IFLA - Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC - and the Division of Bibliographic Control. As reported in the last Newsletter issue, the aim is to analyse, in the global context, the universal bibliographic control in the context of IFLA programs and specifically on bibliographic control in different types of libraries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project is also supported by SIDA.

GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE REGION

Delivering Rural Information for Developing Countries: measuring its success and impact

In August 1996, a task force consisting of librarians from Africa, Asia, Latin America working with Diana Rosenberg of the United Kingdom has been working on the development of indicators for rural information services in developing countries.

The idea for this project rose out of a seminar sponsored by IFLA-ALP that took place in Gaborone Botswana in 1994. The Central theme of the seminar was dissemination of information in rural Africa. Among the conclusions of the seminar was the need to stimulate critical analysis, research and the continuous evaluation of information services in rural African communities. IFLA-ALP, recognizing the need for evaluation standards for rural information services not only in Africa, but for all developing countries, has assumed the task of developing such standards, with the support of SIDA and UNESCO.

The results of this project is a document that will be relevant not only for those responsible for offering rural information services, but also for those who are interested in establishing, conducting, improving or evaluating such services. The publication begins with a summary of advances related to the dissemination of information services in the rural sectors over the past 10 years, including information needs, methods and media for information transfer, distribution methods, impact of new technologies and the findings of evaluations made. The chapter on expectations describes rural information services and includes examples from several developing countries. The chapter on indicators describes how each expectation can be measured. Each indicator includes the purpose, measurements, required data and method of calculation. The final chapter contains ideas about how to use the results and apply the indicators. Both the expectations and indicators are based on experience and practical use, as the bibliography reveals. The two appendices offer guidelines for collecting statistics and terminology and definitions.

It is hoped that the results of the publication will be used to:

- * provide information service providers standards for measuring the effectiveness of services in terms of operation and impact.

- * demonstrate to funding organizations the usefulness of these services in rural and national development.

- * act as an impetus to those who establish rural information services by making available measurable goals.

- * allow managers of information services to reevaluate and redefine their mission and to determine necessary buildings, resources and activities.

(Gloria María Rodríguez Santa María)

American Library Association's 1998 Annual Conference, June 25 - July 2 Washington, D.C. USA

For the first time in ALA's 122-year history, the ALA Annual Conference will focus on an international theme, "Libraries: Global Reach, Local Touch."

ALA invites all of their international colleagues to join them for a truly global event, during a week of exciting speakers, panels, meetings, library visits and activities that will stress the importance of sharing information internationally to improve libraries in the US and around the world.

For more information contact:
International Relations Office
American Library Association
50E, Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2795 USA
Tel.: +1 312 280-3201
E-mail: intl@ala.org
Web: <http://www.ala.org>

Select ALA Events, Conferences for more information about the ALA Annual Conference.

Southern Cone Association of Library Science Schools

On August 14, 1996 an extraordinary session was held in Puerto Rico for the Directive Commission of the ASEBICS association. Representatives at the meeting were: Profa. Elsa Barber, Director of the School of Library Science of the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina); Profa. Carmen Pérez Ormeño, Director of the School of Library Science of the Metropolitan Technology University of Santiago (Chile); Prof. Ruben Morel, Academic Director of the Politechnic Department of the University of Asuncion (Paraguay); and Prof. Mario Barité, Director of the University School of Library Science of UDELAR (Uruguay) who as president of the association, called the meeting to order.

The following subjects were discussed at the meeting:

1. Approval of the Statutes for the participating universities,
2. Updating of regional databases,
3. Future finances of the Association,

4. A permanent support group for the association,
5. Representation from each country vis-a-vis the association,
6. The position of Brazil vis-a-vis the association,
7. Publicity activities (Profa. Glora Gasperini)

A course by E-mail

REDCAPA, the network of institutions dealing with Latin American economics and agricultural policies based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, consists of 61 institutions from 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries. In March to June 1997, REDCAPA developed the first Internet course for Automation and Agricultural Information Services. The program consisted of 3 modules:

1. Planning and design of automation projects.
2. AGRIS: an international methodology for the processing and exchange of information.
3. Services, products, and marketing of information.

The courses were given by Karla Vanessa Bonilla, of REDCAPA, Helga Schmidt of the AGRIS Processing Unit in Austria and Lourdes Feria of the University of Colima in Mexico. The 27 course participants hailed from Argentina, Spain, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, Uruguay and Honduras. The students didn't even have to travel to attend classes. They simply connected from home or office to Cyberspace to follow the daily sessions, to comment on lectures, present their opinions and submit works done for each module. This was an excellent "virtual" classroom experience upon which REDCAPA will build other similar activities.

For more information, please contact:

Karla Vanessa Bonilla
Secretaria Ejecutiva de REDCAPA
E-mail: redcapa@omega.Incc.br (Lourdes Feria in Informativo Abgra, No. 12, septiembre, 1997)

Collective Catalog of the Spanish Patrimonial Bibliography now on the Internet

Since last May 20, one can consult the collective catalog of Spanish Patrimonial Bibliography via the Internet. The site maintained by the State Secretary of Culture is located at: <http://www.mcu.es/ccpb/index.html>.

The initiative was undertaken by the General Department for the Book, Archives and Libraries, the General Sub-department of the Library Coordination along with common agreements with the Autonomous communities that contribute to the Collective Catalog. The principal objective of the project is to share the knowledge about the bibliographic patrimony, in complement to what is available in legislation about Spanish historical patrimony. (Informativo ABGRA, No.12, Septiembre 1997)

IV Panamerican congress on Information for Health Sciences (CRICS IV)

BIREME/OPS, in collaboration with BINASSS/CENDEISS (Costa Rican Social Security and Ministry of Health) have announced that the IV meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean System of Health Sciences Information (from the 23-24 March, 1998) and the IV Panamerican Congress of Health Sciences (CRICS IV) on the 25-27 March 1998 will take place at the Convention Center of the Hotel Herrera in San Jose, Costa Rica. The themes will be:

- *Information networks: bridge to the third millenium
- *Medical information: realities and perspectives
- *Information for modernizing health systems
- *Information in health sciences: navigating the future
- *Towards electronic publications: from the author to the reader.

If you are interested in more information, contact:

BIREME/OPS/OMS
Rua Botucatu 862
04023-901 - São Paulo, SP - Brasil
Tel.: (55) (11) 575-9800/9825
Fax: (55) (11) 575-8868/571-1919
E-mail: crics@bireme.br
<http://www.bireme.br>

The DOI-System

The STM Innovations Committee started to study the issue of document and item identifiers four years ago. One of the first actions was to write a report on all known and planned numbering systems. This report ("Armati Report") documented that the world of music was already far better organized with numbers for printed music (ISMN), recordings (ISRN) and works in general (ISWC). Similar numbering systems are available for photography, audio-visual materials, film and video. The world of text concentrates on ISBN (books) and ISSN (serials), governed by the respective and respected ISBN- and ISSN-agencies and supported by a large number of libraries acting as directory managers. In the context of multimedia it was obvious for the text producers to talk or listen to the other players.

The American Association of Publishers (AAP) invited interested parties to propose a system or at least an idea to handle all kinds of digital objects, at the same time facilitating electronic commerce and electronic copyright management systems. The most far-reaching proposal came from the Corporation of national research Initiatives (CNRI) together with Bowker.

Obviously, CNRI with their close knowledge and experience of the Internet (President Robert Kahn is the inventor of the Internet!) and their close contacts with the Internet

Engineering Task force (IETF) and the W3-Consortium, brought in a whole new perspective.

For two years the AAP and CNRI have been designing, testing and tuning the Digital Object Identifier System (DOI-System).

DOI's underlying technology is the CNRI Handle System, that is already in use by the Library of Congress and the US Copyright Office. The Handle System is a distributed and scalable system which stores the names of digital objects and the information needed to locate those objects via the Internet.

The DOI-System will connect users, content providers and information. The system has three parts:

- an identifying number;
- an automated directory;
- a content-owner maintained database.

Content owners can register with a Directory Manager (DM) to receive a Prefix. During the test period this will be done centrally by the AAP and CNRI in the USA. The content owners should guarantee the originality, integrity and authenticity of the works that they want to be registered.

The prefix can be combined by the registrant with any numbering system like ISBN, ISSN, ISWC, ISAN, SICI, BICI or a number from an internal publishing system. It is recommended to use standardized numbering systems and to add a character to indicate the following article, book, serial or item number used: e.g. B for ISBN, S for ISSN.

The complete number will then be registered as an International Standard Digital Identifier (ISDI) and the number may look like:

10.12345/B+ISBN

or

16.6789/S+ISSN

or

21.13579/SICI

(directory.registrant prefix/item identifier suffix (in any format!))

As you can see, the DOI System is open and any known or future numbering system can be incorporated.

Although the DOI is an AAP initiative, it has been made clear from the beginning, that it is to be a global system. An international DOI Foundation will be established to govern the DOI-System and negotiate with directory managers and technology providers.

The International Publishers Association (IPA) and STM have endorsed the DOI initiative. A joint IPA/STM Information Identifier Business Committee (IIBC) was formed with a technical subcommittee (IITC). The Business Committee will act as an ad interim advisory body until the DOI Foundation takes over.

For more information refer to the Internet address: <http://www.doi.org> or contact Arnoud de Kemp, Chairman of the Information Identifiers Technical Committee at e-mail: dekemp@springer.de

Second International Seminar "Capacitación en Producción y Promoción de Materiales de Lectura en Lenguas Indígenas"

The second international seminar "II Seminario Internacional sobre Capacitación en Producción y Promoción de Materiales de Lectura en Lenguas Indígenas" was held in the historic Ciudad Bolívar during the 4th through the 8th of August, 1997. The seminar was sponsored by a variety of government offices, private foundations and organizations including Gobierno del Estado Bolívar, Dirección de Cultura, Red de Bibliotecas Públicas, UNUMA (Sociedad Civil de Apoyo al Indígena), Biblioteca Nacional, Fundación Polar, International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA),

Taller Modoi, and Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana (U.N.E.G.). The seminar was attended by language teachers, librarians, educators, anthropologists, and linguists. They came from Germany, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, USA, France, French Guyana, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. Thirty-six participants represented their communities of Arawak, Chiquitano, Hiwi, Huambisa, Kari'ña, Nahuatl, Pemon, Piara, Pumé, Wahiro, Yabarana, and Ye'kwana.

The seminar began with reaffirmation of the importance of the indigenous languages and cultures of the South American countries and throughout the world. With this common conviction, participants engaged in strategies for developing literacy in indigenous languages focusing their discussions on 1) development of written materials and promotion of reading and writing, 2) how to integrate indigenous literacy in education, and 3) roles of anthropologists and linguists in indigenous literacy and in revitalization of indigenous languages in general. Underlying these discussions was the important role of the national and local public libraries in the countries represented at the seminar. The library has played a remarkable and powerful role in public education and publication of materials. Especially in Venezuela during the past decade, such public education and Spanish literacy education have expanded to the development of literacy in indigenous languages. This is testified by a large number of librarians at the seminar.

The intensive interactions and discussions among participants produced a set of concrete recommendations and guidelines for advancing the work of linguistic and cultural maintenance and perpetuation, especially through literacy. The librarians have reaffirmed their mission of promoting literacy both in Spanish and indigenous languages and of providing assistance in producing materials. Teachers and educators are determined to examine their own languages and cultures, prepare teaching materials, and continue to train more teachers; anthropologists and linguists are reassured of the important roles they play in the linguistic and cultural revitalization efforts, of the necessity of providing linguistic and ethnographic training to indigenous peoples, and of cooperative projects.

New directions that have emerged from the seminar include establishment of systematic training opportunities for indigenous teachers in linguistics and in education (especially language teaching). Currently, for example, in Venezuela, UNUMA has been providing linguistic training to Pemon and Kari'ña teachers. The strong desire voiced at the seminar was to expand such linguistic and educational training to include more language groups and more diverse curricula (e.g., training in linguistics, observation and documentation methods and techniques—ethnographic methods, curriculum development, language and cultural materials development, educational and communication technology training—computer, video, audio). Another important move was to begin planning a center of indigenous languages and cultures where research opportunities and publications of materials in indigenous languages are facilitated. The POLAR Foundation, the major supporter of the seminar, was enthusiastic of these ideas. I see these and other ideas presented at the seminar not only crucially important for the language revitalization but also realistic in actualizing them. UNUMA (Haydée Seijas, Secretaria Ejecutive), Biblioteca Nacional (Virginia Betancourt-Valverde, Directora), and Fundación Polar (Elizabeth Monascal, Coordinadora, Área Cultura) seem an ideal team to work toward these goals.

Hope for maintenance and revitalization of indigenous languages and cultures is given a renewed life and, I believe, both indigenous maestros and professionals have re-energized their dedication and commitment to the common goal. The Organizing Committee has done a great job and gratitude and congratulations are extended to the members: Haydée Seijas, Yolanda Labady-Salvatori, Marvelis Armario de Madrid, Elizabeth Monascal, Iris Rojas Rojas, and Iris Aray; and special thanks to the staff of Dirección de Cultura, Gobierno del Estado Bolívar.

(Akira Y. Yamamoto, Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas E-mail: akira@ukans.edu)

Information Management: An awakening in the region

For some time now there has been concern about the abilities and will of Latin American organizations to critically investigate and improve knowledge about information and communication processes and socio-economic development in both universal aspects and unique contexts. Although research in the areas of information science and communication has been and is conducted in our region—often timely, valuable and occasionally even heroic—but the results have not reached the extension, depth and continuity comparable to what can be observed in industrialized countries.

The search to redefine to Latin American ability to research this theme will contribute towards what Stevan Dedijer generically call the social intelligence, that is, making ourselves more intelligent as organizations and nations to effectively deal with phenomena that affect our development: the informative-communicative processes, in this case.

From that perspective, the first Latin American forum for research in information science, convened in Rio de Janeiro by ANCIB (National Association for Research in Information Sciences) in Brazil looms in importance. It was also the third national meeting of the organization.

This meeting gave rise to the first general view of what is happening in the region in terms of information and communication research. Although it was not possible to arrive at comparative measurements for the quantity and quality of research conducted in different countries, the impression remained that of all the countries Brazil was the leader, followed by Mexico. Of the participating countries, it appeared that in Cuba, Argentina and Uruguay research is in a growing phase. Among countries that did not participate, it was the general impression that Chile, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru were also making gains in such research.

The case of Brazil is significant, with 134 presentations at the conference. Besides the "scale" factor, one must consider other factors such as a continuous policy for scientific and technological information as evidenced in the creation of IBBD and later, IBICT as CNPq agencies; the creation of the Information Science master's program of CNPq-IBICT-UFRJ-ECO; the creation of the PADCT program of the World Bank, etc. All of these efforts serve as testimony to the vision and leadership of government agencies and universities. The fruits of these efforts are seen: Brazil now has four doctorate programs in Information Science, which is an enviable source for the development of research.

The following are examples of the range and importance of themes and problems under study: professional gatekeepers as agents for the socialization of information in small and

mid-sized companies; the demand for information by rural farmers in the agricultural community of Igarape Municipality (East Amazonia); virtual organizations and information professionals; model research for the integration of the agent and user of information in technological extension services; reference theory; creating "virtual courses" in the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro's Economic Department; interaction between the public library and community based on market segmentation studies; small social groups from Rio de Janeiro: efficacy of information and communication; the society for information content; labor markets in the postmodern era, among many others.

Since there are few universally accepted parameters for research, it is perhaps premature to take a stand on the quality of the 134 sessions. The tangible results are the coexistence of research works such as annotated bibliographies, states of the art, epistemological analyses and exploratory studies, with others that look towards opening new avenues of knowledge through the search for stable relations between variables and tests of a great variety of innovative methodologies to observe earthly events.

For now we have the impression that we are experiencing an alarm for research in Latin America in an area of human activity that was formerly considered practical and service-oriented, foreign to research and self-analysis. A good sign. (Julio Cubillo - Cepal-Clades, comunicado de octubre 1997)

Ideas-Social effects of the Internet: thoughts of an Argentine MD student

"Why does everyone want to be on the Internet? The reason is simple: liberty. The Internet is a rare example of a functional, modern and true anarchy. There is no Internet, Inc. corporation. There are no official censors, no owners, no directors. All nodes have the same range and can transmit or receive while respecting communication protocols that are neither social or political, but are absolutely technical. There is no official entity that represents, just as there are no possibilities for exchanges. The internet belongs to everybody and nobody." "The internet... is an artificial system, an anarchic structure made from technological artifacts that establishes a new socio-cultural space with particular characteristics. It connects humans that are far apart for a low cost and almost instantaneously. Each individual who is a part of the network has the same status and priority."

"But now comes a new question: what will be the effects of this system on society, culture and politics?"

(BALLARIN, Virginia. INTERNET: un artefacto tecnologico o un espacio social?. NEXOS, ano 3, v.7, junio 1997. pp.22-25.)

II International Seminar on Photography Preservation and Conservation

It was held from October 20-31 1997 in Rio de Janeiro, organized by FUNARTE (Brazilian National Foundation of Art) and supported by the Secretary of Interchange and Special Projects of the Ministry of Culture, Brazil. It was attended by several Latinamerican and Caribbean experts who exchanged ideas and gave lectures on conservation and preservation techniques. The seminar was attended also by invited experts from the United States, France, Finland, Portugal and England.

During the seminar several workshops took place in different sites of the City. The seminar main themes were: preventive conservation, organization of and access to photographic collections, conservation of colour material, reproduction and preservation for greatest duration, digitalization as an access tool, legal issues related to the digitalization of collections and to digital technology: networks, quality control, etc.

At the same time it was held the Latinamerican History and Photography Meeting.

Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, Director, IFLA Preservation and Conservation Program - PAC - attended the seminar and gave lectures on the PAC in Latin America, and also presented a work titled "Photographs dealing with the construction of Latin America and the Caribbean".

The Newsletter congratulates Dr. Solange Zúñiga, Director, FUNARTE Department of Arts, and her staff for the success of the seminar.

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“Las nuevas y múltiples funciones que debe atender actualmente la biblioteca pública a raíz de un público cada vez más heterogéneo e indefinido, de la creciente variedad de medios de comunicación y de métodos de presentación y reproducción de la información, de la explosión informativa y la demanda creciente de ofertas culturales plantean una serie de dilemas: las bibliotecas están capacitadas para atender todas las funciones?, cuáles son las prioridades frente a la evolución que cada una de ellas suporta? cuál es esa realidad en los países en vías de desarrollo como Argentina con inestabilidad política, sin desarrollo económico y sin conciencia, a nivel de las autoridades, del valor e importancia de estas instituciones?”.

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