



**International Federation of Library Associations  
and Institutions**

**Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section**

# **NEWSLETTER**

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## **Editorial**

In this issue of the Newsletter we look forward to two important events of interest to members of LSDP to be held this August in Scandinavia. The first of these is the IFLA satellite conference, *Accessible Libraries*, which is being hosted by IFLA Libraries for the Blind and Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Sections and Västra Götland's regional library service. This meeting will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden from 10th-12th August.

The following week sees the 71<sup>st</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council, entitled, *Libraries - a voyage of discovery*, which takes places in Oslo, Norway. For further information about these events, see page 2.

This issue of the Newsletter includes contributions from Australia, Denmark, France, Italy Japan, the Netherlands New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. A wide range of topics are covered, including prison libraries and books for the children of prisoners, an easy-to-read network and a Dutch Easy Reading Plaza, how a library in New Zealand is helping patients to recover, a UK Black history project and an outreach library service in Italy. It is wonderful to receive such a wide range of contributions to this Newsletter: please keep them coming!

Margaret E S Forrest  
Editor

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## IFLA Satellite Meeting



### Accessible Libraries

Satellite Meeting  
August 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2005  
Gothenburg, Sweden

This year a satellite meeting is being co-hosted by IFLA Libraries for the Blind and Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Sections and Västra Götland's regional library service.

The first day of the seminar opens with a series of talks on Sweden and Norway's policies on library access as well as presentations of library services in Västra Götland. During the second day, the programme will include topics such as copyright and licensing, an update on DAISY in developing countries and accessible online catalogues.

Participants are also invited to visit four of Västra Götland's libraries: Gothenburg Public Library, Chalmers University of Technology Library, Kungälv Public Library and Tjörn Public Library.

Find out more about this satellite meeting and register at  
<http://www.bibl.vgregion.se/ifla>

## IFLA Conference Preview



World Library  
and Information  
Congress: 71st  
IFLA General  
Conference and  
Council

*"Libraries - a voyage of discovery"*

August 14th - 18th 2005,  
Oslo, Norway

The LSDP Section programme at this year's IFLA General Conference and Council is focussing on the theme of accessible libraries. The title of our session is "**Equal Access to Libraries = Opportunity for All**". It will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August from 10:45 to 12:45. The following is an outline of the programme.

### National accessibility strategies for persons with disabilities

Mogens Wiederholt (Equal Opportunities Centre for Disabled Persons (Center for Ligebehandling af Handicappede), Copenhagen, Denmark).

### Access to libraries checklist: a practical tool

Gyda Skat Nielsen (Bibliotekerne i Sollerød, Holte, Denmark) and Birgitta Irvall (Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, Enskede, Sweden).

**Towards an accessible academic library: using the IFLA checklist**  
Margaret Forrest (University of Dundee, UK).

## Articles

### **Library Services to the Inmates of the NSW Correctional Centres: a short history**

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The correctional system administered by the NSW Department of Corrective Services currently consists of 31 correctional centres, including Karriong Juvenile Detention Centre, with an inmate population of approx. 9,000. Within the system, there are 40 libraries to meet the recreational reading and information needs of the inmates.

The libraries are currently administered centrally by the Manager, Library Services and a small number of qualified staff operating from the staff library at the Corrective Services Academy. There are also two qualified staff, located at the library, at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre, housing 900 inmates mostly on remand.

It is the responsibility of staff at both these libraries to meet the acquisitions needs of all the libraries and the information needs of both staff and inmates. As most of the inmate libraries are located in the

education area, education staff, aided by inmate library clerks are responsible for the day to day operation.

The operation of inmate libraries has changed considerably over the years.

Libraries for the use by inmates/prisoners can be traced back to the Prison Regulations of 1867. It was from these regulations that the provision of a library in each of the state's prisons originated. At this time, the duties of the librarian were to be carried out by the schoolmaster. It is presumed that the schoolmaster/librarian would have responsibility for the main prison in Sydney.

The regulations of 1908 expanded the role of the Principal Librarian and Schoolmaster at Darlinghurst Prison, Sydney. As per these regulations, he was also to have general control of the libraries in the other prisons.

In 1896, Frederick William Neitenstein was appointed Comptroller - General of Prisons (1896 - 1909). It was with his appointment that significant changes occurred in prison libraries. Neitenstein introduced into the prisons of New South Wales the regime of restricted association. Under this system, prisoners were not allowed to associate with other prisoners. The only exception to this was when they were at work, divine service and exercise and at these times, talking was kept to a minimum. At meal times and after a days work prisoners would be locked

in their cells with an issue of books. The prevailing philosophy at the time, other than work and maintaining good habits, was the reforming aspect of good literature and this literature was obtained from the prison library.

The prisoners did not have the opportunity to browse the libraries for the books they wanted to borrow. Books were issued to the prisoners on a regular basis during the week. The issue of books varied from prison to prison, from one issue per week in one prison to three issues weekly with the third being on Friday afternoon in another prison. The issues were not just books, many included magazines, which were very popular with the prisoners.

In 1918 there were some restrictions placed on the number and type of books prisoners could obtain from the library. All prisoners were entitled to religious books, after the first month they were entitled to educational works, the second month ordinary books one issue per week, after four months two issues could be drawn and after six months there was the addition of a magazine. In 1920, the rule was simplified to allow all well conducted prisoners full library privileges from date of reception.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, there was a greater emphasis on prisoner education. Books of a scientific and technical nature were purchased, in addition to fiction. Prisoners studying a particular subject were allowed pen, ink and note paper in their cells. It was noted since the introduction of this

privilege there was an increase in the use of dictionaries and educational books from the libraries.

The Depression and World War II was a time of financial stringency for prison libraries of New South Wales. A reduced budget and an increase in the cost of purchasing new books, made it difficult for the libraries to remain in first rate condition. During 1943, in an effort to make the best possible use of the books in the various prison libraries, the holdings of the libraries were brought under central control and catalogues were issued to each prison. This enabled the books to be available to all prisoners irrespective of what prison they might be confined.

This situation continued until 1949 - 50. At this time, representatives from the Public Library of New South Wales (now known as the State Library of New South Wales) were asked to conduct a survey of the Department's prison libraries. Included in their recommendations were the purchase of new book stocks and the policy of allowing prisoners, under supervision, to visit the library and choose their own books.

Also, at this time the Department established the W. J. Mackay Memorial Technical Library, named after the late New South Wales Police Commissioner. The purpose of this library was to lend textbooks to prisoners undertaking correspondence courses, educational classes and general technical reading. There was also

an Accessions Centre established for the purchase of library material.

After the fire and riot at Bathurst Prison in February 1974, the state government established the Nagle Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons. In the report of the Royal Commission, it was shown libraries were small and inadequate with very restricted borrowing by prisoners. The collection of books largely comprised novels of low intellectual level with virtually no sophisticated novels and only a few non-fiction books.

The Deputy State Librarian conducted a review of the Prisoner Library Services in 1982. One of the recommendations was that all library functions within the Department should be rationalised into one unit called the Department of Corrective Services Library, with the Director of Programmes responsible for the oversight of all library services. This rationalisation would eventually lead to the closing of the W. J. Mackay Memorial Technical Library and the Accessions Centre.

The operation of each prison library would eventually become the responsibility of the prison governor and education staff.

In 2003, after a report by the Inspector General of Prison, initiated by inmate complaints about the inadequacy of libraries, the Department once again centralised the administration of inmate libraries. However, this time it was done in conjunction with the operation of the existing staff library.

## **Helping Patients to Recovery**

Bernadette Cassidy  
Library & Learning Coordinator  
Allan Bean Centre for Research and Learning in Rehabilitation  
Christchurch, New Zealand

### **Introduction**

The Allan Bean Centre (ABC) for Research and Learning in Rehabilitation situated on the Burwood Hospital campus in Christchurch is a unique centre providing a range of services and resources for people recovering from serious injury and illness. Burwood Hospital is New Zealand's largest and most comprehensive rehabilitation campus and caters for spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, stroke, orthopaedic conditions and pain management.

The philosophy of the ABC is that rehabilitation is a learning process not a medical one and the aim of the ABC library is to provide good quality information resources and services.

### **Unique Library Service**

The ABC is no conventional rehabilitation model and therefore, the Library and Information service has to meet the challenges of providing unconventional (as well as conventional), but appropriate and relevant services. The ABC Library is unique and unlike medical libraries, is open to all: patients, families, whanau and caregivers, as well as staff, students, researchers and the public. The ABC library is being developed in close collaboration with Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT).



Allan Bean Centre

The ABC model aims to be holistic by placing the patient at the centre of the service; in addition to providing medical care for physical injuries the model emphasises at the outset that regaining a good quality of life post-injury is expected. Quality of life after serious life changing events is more likely if individuals and their support network are provided with access to quality information and evidence for them to make informed choices. The uniqueness of the ABC Library is providing that ongoing support in a number of ways:

- Access to a range of collections including medical information, recreational and fiction resources
- Access to the Internet
- Access to email (This is a very important aspect for patients and families as it means the individual can keep in touch with distant family and friends)
- Access to computer training skills (Some patients will never have used a computer before but are able to receive training and support in basic computing skills.)

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of providing a unique library and information service to specific users:

- Filling the empty book shelves with useful material!
- Installing an automated library management system

- Providing computer support and training
- Providing training in the use of the Internet and email for patients and their support networks.
- Increasing the staffing level by recruiting, training and retaining 'Useful People' volunteers

Following the appointment in 2002 of Bernadette Cassidy as Library and Learning Coordinator she has (among other things):

- Established and developed a comprehensive collection in disability and rehabilitation with a range of materials aimed specifically at the recovering patient and their families, as well as medical texts, for medical, nursing and allied health staff
- Sourced and arranged for the set-up of Koha ( a free open source library system)
- Worked closely with ABC and CPIT staff to design a web site
- Provided training in the use of the Internet and email for ABC clients
- Provided access to computer classes for patients, as well as people with disabilities in the community
- Recruited and trained a team of volunteers

### **Patient focus**

Integral to this customer/patient focus is the role of the library volunteers. Some assist in the library in a sole charge role, enabling an evening service to be offered, while others provide computer tuition for patients/clients attending courses at the ABC. This volunteer 'resource'

where people help people provides opportunities for individuals to be of service to others. The volunteer positions in the ABC Library are highly sought after. People from different walks of life, backgrounds and nationalities assist as volunteers in the ABC Library: currently we have volunteers born in Sri Lanka, Russia, Ukraine, China and India as well as New Zealand. As a result of the success of the library volunteers, we decided to establish a more formal training programme in ABC library duties and processes. This has proved highly successful and has enabled the volunteers to acquire new skills, improve confidence and self-esteem. Some have succeeded in obtaining jobs in other organisations, but still continue as library volunteers.

This use of volunteers has been an innovation in the development of the ABC Library allowing the growth of volunteers as a 'staff' group without financial cost to the library. This is an important factor as the Allan Bean Centre is a charitable trust and relies on donations from other charitable trusts and non-governmental services for its two paid staff, resources and collections.

### **Library Usage**

The objective of providing a library service in the ABC, focused on the patient (customer) and providing appropriate and relevant resources and services, has shown growth since the monitoring of user statistics. There has been an increase from 155 users in January 2003 to 694 users in August 2004. A brief breakdown of the data by main

categories of users is shown in the Table below.

**Table 1. Aggregated service uptake**

	Hospital staff	Patients	Relatives	Visitors	Total
Jan-03	93 (60%)	23 (15%)	21 (13%)	15 (10%)	155
Sep-03	186 (37%)	102 (20%)	60 (12%)	16 (3%)	503
Aug-04	179 (26%)	174 (25%)	66 (10%)	19 (3%)	694

Whilst the ABC library is well used by the hospital patients, families and whanau as well as hospital staff etc, it is also used by people with disabilities within the Christchurch community e.g. Computers for Special Needs group, Laura Fergusson Trust etc. Since the record keeping began in January 2003 the number of patients/relatives have increased four fold.

Proportionally, over 30% of the uptakes are by patients and their relatives or their support network, which can be interpreted as a positive outcome i.e., the model may be succeeding in getting the message across.

The ABC Library strives to assist individuals to achieve their identified goals towards self-paced independent living. The premise of the model has been to place the client in the driving seat. We do not claim to have achieved this, however, we would like to suggest that we have introduced positive changes in the lives of the clients in the right direction. For example, a cerebral palsy outpatient who used to attend physiotherapy and the hydrotherapy pool is now a regular user of the library, despite being set

up with home access to the internet and email. He enjoys the positive interaction with staff, volunteers and other library customers.

Another example is the case of a stroke victim who led an active life prior to the stroke and now assists in the library as a computer volunteer. We regularly receive commendations and appreciation of our service through thank you notes, gifts, feedback and comments from patients. One past patient who asked for information and resources prior to an operation wrote a letter thanking library staff for the information and the crucial role it played in the decision about the operation. The ABC Library provides a social atmosphere where people with disabilities are free to mix socially, resulting in camaraderie. Our users are supported in a comfortable secure and nurturing environment. Library staff and volunteers take time to listen to people who may have communication difficulties.

Hospital staff are key stakeholders, too. They need access to up-to-date quality information and research materials. With limited short notice, the ABC Library recently ran a course on Information Skills for nursing and allied health staff. Two days after this the next course was fully booked. Staff who had attended told their colleagues not to miss out!

Much has been achieved in the short term: the ABC library has created interest in outpatients and community groups. Our volunteers are also ambassadors in the community.

As previously discussed, the rehabilitation process is essentially educational not medical, and follows the Independent Living (IL) model of rehabilitation proposed by Gerben DeJong (1979). This is a model where the process of recovery is controlled by the "patient", not by the professionals. This is a different and unique approach in New Zealand.



Allan Bean Centre

Information about the different projects and activities currently in the Allan Bean Centre: the ABC library, Patient Education, Useful People, Assistive Technology, Vocational Rehabilitation, Courses and Training, and Research can be found on the ABC website at [www.burwood.org.nz](http://www.burwood.org.nz)

### Reference

DeJong, G. (1979) Independent living: from social movement to analytic paradigm. *Arch. Phys. Med. Rehabil.* **60(10)**, 435-446.

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## An Easy-to-Read Network

Bror Tronbacke  
Director  
Easy-to-Read Foundation  
Sweden

### Introduction

Easy-to-read publishing is fundamentally about an open society. Easy-to-read is based on democracy; it is about accessibility and participation in society. Everybody should have the right to information, news and literature in a format in which suits them. In many countries 25 percent or more of the adult population experience difficulty in reading ordinary texts and quite a few of these people would benefit from easy-to-read materials. There are many different groups of people who need something easier to read than ordinary prose: people with reading problems, learning difficulties or intellectual disabilities and also groups of people, for example immigrants and elderly people.

Easy-to-read materials are being published in a number of countries and in many other places people are aware of the need. The IFLA Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section has done a wonderful job in supporting the idea of easy-to-read materials. The newly established international Easy-to-Read Network is a forum for everyone who is professionally interested and engaged in easy-to-read matters, including publishers, writers and distributors.

### The aim

A main objective of the Network is to provide an international forum for the discussion and promotion of information about easy-to-read matters. It is hoped that this will facilitate co-operation between people and organizations in different countries. A further aim of the Easy-to-Read Network is to inform about the concept of easy-to-read materials by arranging courses in easy-to-read matters.

The Easy-to-Read Network also intends to promote joint-venture projects, raise funds for such projects and encourage the development of more easy-to-read publications. Furthermore, the Network should encourage and initiate research about easy-to-read matters.

### Website

The Easy-to-Read Network has a website (currently hosted by the Swedish Centre for Easy-to-Read). The website contains information, a list of contacts, a notice board and links to other relevant sites.

### Participation

The Easy-to-Read Network is open to all professionals, for example, publishers, producers, authors, journalists, photographers, illustrators, librarians and people engaged in marketing and publicity. To date individuals and organizations from approximately 15 countries have become members. Everyone is welcome to join the Network and to register on the mailing list, which is moderated by a

webmaster at the Centre for Easy-to-Read.

### **Conferences**

The Network intends to arrange a meeting on easy-to-read matters every second or third year preferably at the venue of the IFLA conference. This year a meeting is being arranged in Barcelona, Spain. The conference is planned to take place from 6-8 October 2005. At the meeting the Network will be formally launched and there will be an opportunity to discuss ideas, exhibit products, etc. For further information about this, see the web site [www.easy-to-read-network.org](http://www.easy-to-read-network.org)

The structure of the Network will include a formal committee of five to ten members from different countries. The committee will be responsible for the development of the Network's strategy and plans for conferences and applications for grants, etc. New members will be included after nomination and elections.

### **Co-operation**

The Easy-to-Read Network will seek co-operation with IFLA and also the Crimea Conference, UNESCO in addition to other organisations.

### **Membership**

Those interested in becoming a member of the Network or becoming involved in the work of the committee are welcome to apply for membership. The use of the Network is free of charge. If you need further information please contact me at [bror.tronbacke@lattlast.se](mailto:bror.tronbacke@lattlast.se)

## **Dutch Easy Reading Plaza**

Nanda Geuzebroek  
Easy Reading Advisor,  
Stadsbibliotheek Haarlem  
The Netherlands

The City Library of Haarlem in the Netherlands started an Easy Reading Plaza (ERP) for children in 2002. This project was funded thanks to a contribution by the Dutch Dyslexia Foundation. The ERP is a special place for children with reading problems. Many children suffering from dyslexia have already found their way to the ERP. There they find a lot of audiovisual material to help them with their homework (self-study). The attractive and specially selected reading material encourages them to read. The ERP has specially designed furniture. The collection is displayed showing the front cover and not the spine of each item.



Due to its attractive presentation the ERP has found many users: children with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or NLD (Non-verbal Learning Disability) and foreign children. The easy reading advisor appointed especially for the ERP organises many activities on

easy reading topics for parents, teachers and librarians. The project in Haarlem has been copied by many libraries where many ERPs are now appearing.

Our own website ([www.makkelijklezenplein.nl](http://www.makkelijklezenplein.nl)) will be starting soon and will include all sorts of information about easy reading for children, adolescents, parents, teachers and librarians. Information about the ERP can be obtained from the easy reading advisor Nanda Geuzebroek: [n.geuzebroek@haarlem.nl](mailto:n.geuzebroek@haarlem.nl).

## News and Notes

### UK Black History Project

In the United Kingdom, the coveted CILIP/LiS Libraries Change Lives Award has been won this year by the Northamptonshire Black History Project. This Project is a unique and innovative community-led venture that aims to record and promote the histories and stories of Northamptonshire's Black communities and individuals over at least the past 500 years. The project aims to document and acknowledge the presence and contribution of people of Asian, African and Caribbean origins, a contribution that has been little documented and recorded.

In the 1980s an informal group began to research the Black presence in Northamptonshire. By 1998 it became clear that the stories of the Black presence past and

present that were being uncovered had a great potential to develop new audiences for local and national heritage. Northamptonshire Racial Equality Council, the lead agency for the project, invited groups and individuals to get involved and together they developed a three year project that secured significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Home Office and other grant-making bodies. They brought in other partners that included community groups such as Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Kettering, Wellingborough Black Consortium and Ghana Union, as well as Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service, Northamptonshire Record Office, University College Northampton and Northampton Museums and Art Gallery.

The project's vision is to bring together three distinct activities, historical research, community archiving and oral history interviews and to involve people from a range of communities and age-groups in collating their hidden histories. The project has also been working to challenge people to work and think differently and encouraging people across the communities to share their skills and experiences.

The achievements of the project include: 660 references stretching from the 12th century to the present day; creating an oral history archive of over 185 interviews; collecting the archival records of 11 Black community organisations; producing newsletters and publications; encouraging innovative learning for

young people by bringing Black history alive in the classroom, eg. 20 schools visited in partnership with Northampton Town Football Club as part of Football Racism and Cultural Heritage project, sharing stories of Black Historical Figures.

This community-led and based project has successfully engaged and involved local communities in its activities; introduced people to the information held within libraries, archives and museums, and developed their skills to use a wide range of resources. Libraries have played an important role in facilitating people's access to information. This project is attempting to reverse historic discrimination, celebrate cultural diversity and change and enhance the lives of individuals and communities in Northamptonshire.

For further information, contact: Carolyn Abel, Director, email: [director@northants-black-history.org.uk](mailto:director@northants-black-history.org.uk)

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### **Prison Libraries in Norway and Sweden**

*Birgitta Irvall reports on a prison library conference in Sweden...*

The Swedish Library Association held a conference with the subject: "What is new in prison library work" in November 2004. The two day conference was held at a former prison turned conference hotel in central Stockholm. Around 50

librarians working in prison libraries took part in the proceedings.

The first speaker was Birgitta Persson from the Swedish Prison Authority who presented news about prisons and inmates. She had also taken the initiative to form a group including two librarians from the Library Association to write new Guidelines for the Swedish prison libraries. A first draft of the Guidelines was presented and discussed at the conference.

An enquiry was sent out to all prison libraries prior to the conference about services, staffing and stock. The answers were presented and later discussed in smaller groups. In Sweden prison libraries are run by the local public libraries. A service level agreement has been set up whereby the prison pays the library for its services. The enquiry showed that prison authorities have saved money during the last years by cutting down on hours spent at the prison by a librarian and also on money for buying books. Prisons are rather small in Sweden, only five have up to 300 inmates, most have from 50-150. Computers with internet connections are only allowed in very few prisons. Librarians therefore have to search for books and information to prisoners at their local library. In the agreement the local public library also gets paid for these searches.

On the second day of the conference, Leikny Haga Indegaard from ABM-utvikling (The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority) presented an overview of

Norwegian prison libraries. Local public libraries provide a service to prisons also in Norway.

The conference ended with a presentation by a former prisoner. He has written two books about his experiences of 20 years in prison. The prison school and the library helped him to overcome his reading problems.

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### New Prison Library in Caltagirone

*On 20<sup>th</sup> May this year, a new prison library was opened in Caltagirone, Italy. Here, new LSDP Standing Committee Member, Angela Barlotti, describes the opening ceremony and the speech given by Notary Filippo Ferrara of Caltagirone. An English translation of this report is available at  
<http://193.207.49.2/virtual/biblio/article.php?sid=1764>*

#### 'Un libro per il carcere'

Relazione del Notaio Filippo Ferrara da Caltagirone alla cerimonia della consegna della Biblioteca Rotary al Carcere di Caltagirone 20 maggio 2005.

L'art. 27 della Costituzione italiana cita "le pene devono tendere a rieducare il condannato" in ogni casa di ritenzione deve avere, accanto allo spazio ove mangiare, ove riposare, ove camminare, ove pregare, anche lo spazio ove leggere.

Perche?

Il ristretto, colpevole od innocente che sia non spetta a noi giudicare, è privato del bene piu' grande che ha l'uomo: la liberta'. Egli versa quindi in uno stato fisico e psichico di grande difficoltà: puo' cadere in uno stato di sconforto, di delusione, di amarezza, di dolore, di pianto; un libro, la lettura di un libro puo' aiutarlo a pensare, a meditare, a riflettere, a ritrovare fiducia in se' e nella società, a riscoprire ed a riappropriarsi della propria dignità. Spesso, infatti, il ristretto vive l'esperienza della carcerazione come una parentesi inevitabile, un'interruzione della vera esistenza, una sospensione del tempo e non, come previsto dal dettato costituzionale, un'occasione di cambiamento del proprio percorso esistenziale.

La possibilità di frequentare la biblioteca costituisce per i ristretti una condizione di crescita culturale e civile; un'opportunità per dare significato al tempo della detenzione, evitando che sia soltanto il tempo dell'ozio e dell'abbruttimento. Il Rotary Club di Caltagirone per concludere la celebrazione dell'Anno del Centenario della fondazione del R.I., consegna alla Casa Circondariale di Caltagirone quasi 4.700 testi tutti di ottima qualità che costituiranno la Biblioteca dell'istituto di pena, ma altri ancora continuano ad arrivare.

Dal primo luglio 2004 la Citta' di Caltagirone è stata riempita del manifesto "Un Libro per il Carcere" e primo sponsor è stato il Sindaco di Caltagirone, i cittadini tutti e i tanti enti che ci hanno aiutato a realizzare

il progetto di biblioteca in carcere. La Provincia di Ravenna col suo 'Seminar libri...in luoghi insoliti' ha seminato libri per il progetto di Caltagirone.

Una grande collaborazione abbiamo ricevuto dalla Chiesa Cattolica di Caltagirone e dintorni, infatti la figura del cappellano in carcere, come dice la Barlotti, è la prima figura di bibliotecario volontario all'interno degli istituti penali. Una cultura dei diritti umani che, senza negare le esigenze della giustizia, sa ed è capace d'indicare le strade della fiducia e della speranza. C'e' un bel saggio, "Pena e Retribuzione: la riconciliazione tradita" di un penalista di lingua tedesca, Eugen Weisnet: che inizia con una frase "da millenni gli uomini si puniscono vicendevolmente, da millenni si domandano perché lo facciano" un duplice auspicio:

- il 1°, indicare e seguire una strada, con riguardo al settore penale,
- "per evitare che esso continui a rimanere una sorta di fabbrica delle illusioni dentro la quale trovano insieme pari collocazione il popolo sciocco ed ignaro e tutti gli attori del sistema politico-istituzionale;
- il 2°, tesaurizzare il principio della certezza del diritto concepito come garanzia di libertà.

- La legalità non si deve discostare dalle leggi dell'umanità alle quali obbediva Antigone (Sofocle)."  
Nel manifesto Unesco sulle Biblioteche pubbliche (1995), si legge:  
"I servizi della biblioteca pubblica sono forniti sulla base dell'uguaglianza di accesso per tutti, senza distinzione di età, razza,

sesso, religione, nazionalità, lingua o condizione sociale.

Servizi e materiali specifici devono essere forniti a quegli utenti che, per qualsiasi ragione, non abbiano la possibilità di utilizzare servizi e materiali ordinari, per esempio, le minoranze linguistiche, le persone disabili, ricoverate in ospedale, detenute nelle carceri".

"Seminar libri...in luoghi insoliti" ,

"Bibliotecaria da strada" ,

"Bibliotecaria Fuori di Sé"

In anni non sospetti, ha "seminato libri e attività culturali" in molti luoghi chiusi e aperti: ipermercati, carceri, parrucchieri, stabilimenti balneari, bar, case per stranieri;

dal 1973 è Responsabile del Servizio Biblioteche della Provincia di Ravenna

La Comunità Europea si è interessata alle sue attività chiamandola a Bruxelles per partecipare ad un work shop il 31 marzo 2003 dove ha raccontato le sue esaltanti esperienze ai membri dei Paesi presenti.

"Se hai un figlio che non mangia devi insegnargli a mangiare, se ne hai uno che non legge, devi insegnargli a leggere, ad amare i libri"

Ma in carcere è possibile davvero far amare i libri?

È la dottoressa Maria Angela Barlotti!

Il carcere non comporta soltanto la perdita della libertà personale, ma altresì l'afflizione "extra legem" della sospensione dei rapporti umani: a lungo andare questa deprivazione si ripercuote sul rapporto di coppia, sui figli, su ogni altra relazione affettiva.

In una persona detenuta, emarginata, il sentimento di abbandono può innescare un meccanismo di reazione, di risentimento verso il mondo esterno e ciò influenzerà, inevitabilmente, la sua condotta futura.

Il mantenimento e la valorizzazione dei legami personali costituiscono un elemento fondamentale per il reinserimento nella famiglia e nella società:  
aiutare il detenuto a costruire o ricostruire rapporti è essenziale nel suo percorso di recupero sociale, sulla base dell'assunto che "l'incapacità comunicativa è elemento fortemente criminogenico", e finisce per alimentare la spirale reato-carcere-reato .

Il carcere, nell'assenza di stimoli ed opportunità, potrebbe divenire promotore di nuova criminalità: se l'insicurezza arriva da chi commette reati, è evidente che il detenuto, privato di sostegno e prospettiva rimarrà fonte di insicurezza.

La cultura allora si pone come la premessa essenziale per un reale recupero e per il ritorno alla legalità. Il detenuto che, una volta libero,

sceglie una vita diversa, riesce a scardinare modelli preesistenti in famiglia e nel proprio contesto sociale.

E' questa la vera azione di contrasto, il vero discorso di giustizia e di legalità.

Oggi, utilizzando ancora una volta i concetti e le parole di Maria Angela Barlotti, cerchiamo di creare un percorso di 'biblioterapia' a favore di persone detenute nelle carceri. Infatti, il detenuto che ha avuto contatti col libro e col servizio biblioteca in carcere, quando viene trasferito (e succede spesso), porta con sé il desiderio di trovare lo stesso servizio negli istituti che lo "ospitano" e, se non esiste, chiede che venga realizzato. La "contaminazione" dell'utilizzo della biblioteca in carcere, per voce dei detenuti, ne ha permesso la disseminazione sul territorio nazionale. I detenuti sono le "api" delle biblioteche in carcere. I detenuti che possono accedere ai servizi di una biblioteca ne hanno un beneficio anche in termini di promozione della salute e del benessere personale (salutogenesi) o addirittura come strumento di terapia. La "Biblioterapia" come strumento valido per la terapia rivolta a persone che soffrono i mali causati dalla detenzione. "La civiltà è quella cosa per cui una sedia viene impagliata, sopra e sotto, con ugual cura".

La civiltà, quella autentica, si trova spesso nelle cose che non si vedono. Nei luoghi remoti, oscuri del vivere: quelli del dolore, della

sofferenza. Delle marginalità. Delle privazioni: come il carcere, dove ogni giorno la parola civiltà deve essere alimentata, sostenuta, tenuta in vita, con rigore e perseveranza da chi vi opera e da chi è in stato di detenzione. Una parola che va rinfocolata, rivitalizzata anche dall'esterno: dall'intervento degli uomini "liberi", che non possono essere distratti, rimanere indifferenti, come se il carcere fosse altro da loro. Distinto. Distante.

Il carcere è, nella sua drammaticità, l'altra faccia del salotto buono. Col carcere bisogna fare i conti. Fino in fondo. Perché la civiltà o comprende tutto e tutti o non è.

E un libro può rendere meno incivile, meno, inutilmente, crudele questo luogo.  
Un libro in cui la parola civiltà lasci intravedere, seppure in lontananza, la parola libertà.

Un grazie, lo voglio rivolgere a tutti voi che avete partecipato a questo incontro.

La vostra presenza ci ha consentito di riflettere, con una maggiore aderenza alla realtà, sulle tante e difficili problematiche delle persone nel carcere, delle persone del carcere, delle istituzioni collegate al mondo del carcere.

Articolo inviato da Angela Barlotti  
- Funzionario Servizio Biblioteche Provincia di Ravenna  
- Standing Committee Member of IFLA (International Federation of Libraries Association and

institutions) Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section

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### Ravenna Library Outreach Service

*Angela Barlotti describes an outreach service provided by Ravenna Library Service...*

Knowledge and books to promote social inclusion among citizens: "Sowing books... through unusual places".

The project, which started in 1994, aims to promote reading in unusual places (prisons, pubs, bathing establishment, the Bukowski Tavern, hairdressing salons, shopping centres, health department, multicultural centres...) and among unusual users (prisoners, elderly people, immigrants, patients) from the Province of Ravenna, Italy.

The project intends to sow books, magazines, audio and video items, both in Italian and in foreign languages, by means of Library Islands or Reading points.

Books are at users' disposal, to be read, exchanged or brought back in the dedicated containers so that they can be freely lent by other users, in a sort of "reading in motion".

The resources are kindly given by the Ravenna Library Service thanks to the project "Help a Library by donating a book" from [www.romanzieri.com](http://www.romanzieri.com).

*"Book browsing...! Choose me and take me away, read and then bring me back for another reader".*

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### **Cancer Centre Patients' Library, Shizuoka, Japan**

*News from new Standing Committee member, Yu Kikuchi, Chair of Japan Hospital Patients' Library Association*

I am a LSDP Standing Committee member from 2005 and looking forward to meeting colleagues. I have been an SC member two times in the past, but did not speak at any General Conference because I felt there were not enough relevant LSDP developments in Japan to deliver a paper at international meetings. Japan was a kind of developing country in the field of patients' libraries in the past. However, the situation has now changed: in 2002 a good patients' library staffed by a professional librarian was opened at Shizuoka [Prefectural] Cancer Centre.

The library has a good location (near the main entrance to the Centre), with computer based information retrieval and bar code loan system. Patients can not only access the library stock and medical information but also enjoy videos, CDs or DVDs even in their sickrooms. The library

is also very convenient for our patients who are waiting for treatment or after treatment.

This library has been developed following the *IFLA Hospital Patients' Library Guidelines*. I think that it may be the first of its kind in Asia. I am very proud that I took part in the revision of the Guidelines of patients' libraries, was involved in the setting up of the Cancer Center Library as adviser and also that I myself work for the patients at the cancer hospital.

In 2006 the IFLA General Conference will be held in Seoul, Korea, only a short journey by air from Japan. I look forward to making a contribution to the meeting of our Section in Seoul.

### **New Resources**

#### **New Online Health Information Resource for Asian-speaking Persons**

Tufts University, an educational / research institution founded and based in the United States (1852, Boston), is sponsoring an online health information resource in seven Asian languages: Chinese; Hmong; Khmer; Korean; Laotian; Thai; Vietnamese. Called SPIRAL, for "Selected Patient Information Resources in Asian Languages", its Web site - <http://spiral.tufts.edu> - provides detailed health information for patients as well as for physicians.

SPIRAL's database is searchable by language and by topic. The range of topics is fairly comprehensive and represents areas such as: diseases

and disorders, for example, asthma, cancer diabetes, substance abuse, SARS, HIV/AIDS; age specific problems and disorders (infants, children / teens, and seniors); gender specific disorders (men's health, women's health); general subjects, for example, medications, domestic violence; wellness medicine, covering areas such as exercise, eye care, foot care, and nutrition. A caveat - not all topics are available in all seven languages.

SPIRAL also provides links to related Web resources. Clicking on "Asian Health Web Sites", for example, leads the user to sources such as: the *University of Utah's 24 Languages Project - Health Education Brochures in Multiple Languages* (including Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, Croatian, Romanian); the *Department of Health, Hong Kong; Health Finder* (for Asians, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islands); *Health Information in Chinese; Men's Health Programme* (MHP), sponsored by Hong Kong's Department of Health. These related sites cover in some cases a limited number of topics and in others a broad range of subjects.

Nancy Panella

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### **E 17: Highway to Accessible Information**

In the LSPD Newsletter, December 2003, I wrote about a Danish National Strategy for Library Services to Disabled Persons developed by a group of library professionals.

As one of the first results of this important document, **E 17** was introduced in the beginning of 2005.

**E 17** is a web page for people with reading problems – a highway to accessible information for the blind and other visually impaired people, those with dyslexia and others who are unable to read. The new web page has been developed by the Danish Library for the Blind in co-operation with public libraries and various organizations for the disabled people. **E 17** is financed by the Ministry of Culture and other relevant foundations.

An **animation film** shows the services of the libraries to people with reading disabilities.

You can also enter a "**Web café**" with entertainments like chat, quiz and different games. Seen from the point of view of a librarian, the "**Reading room**", where you can find lists of talking books, books on Braille, large print books, easy-to-read materials and videos for the deaf, is of great interest. Here you can also find biographies of writers as well as links to magazines, dictionaries, etc of interest to disabled people.

At the "**Infotek**" you can find information on alternative media for reading and compensatory programs like enlargement programs or screen reading programs.

The **Net guide** has links to relevant organizations, special libraries and online library services for people with reading problems.

On the **E 17** you can **download e-books** from the stock of the Library for the Blind – provided that you are a member of the library. Only blind or partially-sighted people, those with dyslexia and other disadvantaged people can be members and they have to provide documentation indicating their disability from their medical doctor or a dyslexia institution.

**E 17** is a new way for people with reading disabilities to gain access to information and culture on equal terms with other citizens of the country, as provided in the Danish Library Act. It is a big jump forward!

Have a look at the new Danish web page for people with reading disabilities on [www.e17.dk](http://www.e17.dk)!

Gyda Skat Nielsen

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### **Design for Accessibility**

*Design for accessibility: a cultural administrator's handbook* represents an update of the Arts Endowment's *The Arts and 504* (1992) with additional information from the 700-page *Design for accessibility: an arts administrator's guide* produced by the Arts Endowment and NASAA (National Assembly of State Art Agencies, Washington) in 1994. This resource is designed to help readers not only comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but to assist in making access an integral part of an organization's planning, mission, programs,

outreach, meetings, budget and staffing. Hardback copies of the book can be ordered through the NASAA Web site at [http://www.nasaa-arts.org/publications/design\\_access.shtml](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/publications/design_access.shtml).

*Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook* is also available in Portable Document Format (PDF) at <http://www.arts.gov/resources/Accessibility/DesignAccessibility.html>

Georgette Rappaport

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### **New Book about Prison Libraries in Norway**

"Biblioteket det normale rommet i fengslet" edited and published by ABM-utvikling, 2005. This book is written in Norwegian and can be downloaded as a PDF from [www.abm-utvikling.no](http://www.abm-utvikling.no)

The book gives a good picture of how prison libraries are run in Norway. Prison librarians, prisoners, administrators give their view of the subject. Statistics from a survey carried out by ABM-utvikling provides the background to how the libraries are managed.

Norwegian prison libraries are funded in a complicated way. The grants come from the Justice department to the Culture department and ABM-utvikling and is then divided between 12 prison libraries. These libraries have been the same since this model started

and new prisons can not get funds for a library. There are also some public libraries that don't get government funding but still provide a service. Some special projects are also presented where, for example, the prison school and the library work together and where authors are invited to visit prisons by library staff.

Birgitta Irvall

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### **Books for Prisoners' Children**

The UK charity, Action for Prisoners' Families (APF) have recently published two picture storybooks for children of prisoners with the help of celebrated children's illustrators Korky Paul and Nick Sharratt. The charity has published the storybooks in an effort to reduce the stigma that surrounds prisoners' children and to encourage them to talk about the problems they face.

Every year, more than 150,000 children in England and Wales experience the imprisonment of a parent. Prisoners' children receive very little information or support, and often feel unable to talk about what has happened or to share their feelings. With the prison population continually rising, more children than ever are being affected. Prisoners' children have committed no crime but are left to deal with the pain and stigma of having a prisoner in the family. Imprisonment is incredibly damaging for children, particularly affecting their schooling and future prospects.

Lucy Gampell, Director of APF, said, "These books are much-needed resources that will help children to explore their emotions. It is important they understand that others are going through the same thing, and that they are not responsible for their parent being imprisoned."

"The books can also be used by carers and teachers as a catalyst for discussion, helping to raise awareness of the problems prisoners' children face."

For further information, visit the website of Action for Prisoners' Families at

<http://www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk/>

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