

Annual report on the activities in 1995/96

Standing Committee and Section Membership

The Standing Committee has 14 members from ten countries, plus five corresponding members. Section registration in 1996 stood at 77, i.e. a plus of 5% since last year.

Standing Committee and Chinese Friends



General activities (PR, communication)

1) In fall 1995 a first circular to all SC members was mailed. It generated not very much response from the committee members.

2) A general questionnaire asking all the section's members for

- the correction of the addresses of the section's members
- the name of a contact partner in the respective institutions
- an email address

did not have the expected (and necessary) feedback either.

3) With the help of Repke de Vries a listserv-discussion list was then created to foster communication within the group of the members of the standing committee. An evaluation of existing listserv-discussion lists showed that there is no other list with the topic Social Science Libraries, although there has been an attempt to create one. So that: after a period of restricted use the discussion list was opened for general subscription and soon reached the level of over 50 subscribers. The list is not moderated technically speaking but the number of contributions are limited to important topical ones in order to avoid mail overload for the participants. (soc-lib@nic.surfnet.nl)

4) The sections printed newsletter was sent out to members in Spring 1996. It especially addressed the question of the name of the section which had been discussed at several meetings already. The planned conference activities and projects of the section were presented in the newsletter.

5) A new section's brochure (the first in the folder-form often used in IFLA) was prepared for the Beijing conference. It can be ordered from the chairman. A new version is planned as well as translations into other official IFLA languages.

Projects

1) The SSID Bibliography was continued without additional funding. After the publication of the results of the initial project (jointly with ICSSID and FID/SD) in form of a printed bibliography the information is now collected only by a member of the standing committee and presented in WWW (<http://www.hkkk.fi/~products/ssid.html>). The number of references in August 1996 is 1.140. Its language distribution is 61% English, 20% Russian, 12% German, 4.5% French, 2.5% others. In 1996 the material was updated 5 times. Until now the search capacities are rather limited and no user statistics can be made. It is planned to re-implement the bibliography under a new software at the server of the web-site of the section in Potsdam. It is intended to facilitate contribution to the bibliography by means of an interactive module. Any contribution - i.e. information about publications on the theme of: „Information, Documentation and Library Science with respect to the Social Sciences“ may be send to the chairman (hobohm@fh-potsdam.de).

2) A new (IFLA funded) project under the keyword: „Social Science Virtual Library“ was started in summer 1996. The work in progress can be visited at URL: <http://www.fh-potsdam.de/~IFLA>. Despite of the initial intentions the constructed web-site turned out to become a „meta“-clearinghouse collecting and evaluating the great number of already existing „Social Science Virtual Libraries“ in the net. Future developments planned are mainly the integration of further interactive aspects e.g. the possibility of direct input in the SSID database.

Conferences

The section organised an Open Session and a half day workshop for the 62^d IFLA General Conference in Beijing.

The Open session gathered six speakers from four countries under the theme „Impact of New Technology on Social Science Libraries“ (Please see web-site for details). The session was comparatively wellattended by an estimated number of 80 delegates. Although it suffered from time constraints there was some interesting discussion about the future of the library.



Ching-Chih Chen

The workshop (organised by Leif Loerring, Denmark) took place in the Renmin University and addressed the topic „Seeking Information for Development Studies“. There was a vivid discussion with the four speakers from two different countries. The limited number of nearly 50 ordinary participants were joined by a large group of Chinese colleagues from the inviting university.

A selection of the papers presented at both the Open Session and the Workshop will be published in INSPER 30,4.

For the next conference in Copenhagen three major activities are planned:

1. A pre-conference seminar together within the IFLA section „Government Information and Official Publications“ on the theme of „PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS“ initiated and mainly organised by the Nordic Statistical Libraries in order to create a forum of communication for national Statistical Libraries all over the world.

2. An Open Session on the topic „ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS LIBRARIES IN TRANSITION“ addressing the problems arising with the social transitions in Eastern Europe, the new managerial paradigms in the rest of the world and issues arising out of electronic publications and Internet

3. The workshop will refocus the theme already treated in the pre-conference seminar and deal with „ACCESSING AND WORKING WITH STATISTICAL DATA IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES“

Future plans for the next conferences include the topic „Library activities in support of education“ and the enhancement of the co-operation between the section and the respective sections of FID and ICA. Stay tuned on the section's web-site for further details.

Hans-Christoph Hobohm

Not Only Beijing Roast Duck and Beijing Opera:

Librarians From all Over the World Met in China for the 62nd IFLA Congress - Report From the Social Science Libraries Section

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) was holding its World Congress in Beijing from 25th to 31st of August. More than 2500 librarians from all over the world met in China to discuss current developments in the information business and to develop common projects and activities. For most of the delegates it was the first visit to China and they agreed that they would have to revise their view of China completely or at least their view of Beijing. The city they got to know was astonishingly cosmopolitan and modern which was reminding of the city of Tokyo rather than of socialist stronghold.

Open session of the Section Social Science Libraries

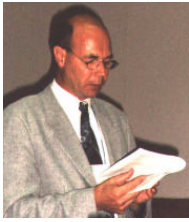
As many sections took place at the same time, this brief report can only comment on one session: „Impact of New Technology on Libraries“. This session was organised by Professor Hobohm (Potsdam Polytechnics, chairman of the Social Science Libraries section) and dealt with a range of questions which were found as topics in many contributions at the Beijing conference. Four colleagues from developed countries (USA, Singapore, Germany) and two lecturers from China stressed the consequences of the global digital library on working procedures in libraries and the new role of the librarians. They drew the conclusion that the librarian at the turn of the century will become the digitalisation specialist and that he will later on play more and more the role of the structurer and specialised selector in the information jungle.

To be able to play these roles it is important that the librarian takes much more vigorously and „proactively“ part in the current development. His expertise should have a considerable impact on the restructuring of the world of information. Because of its hot topic, this „Open Session“ was attended extraordinarily well. Thanks to simultaneous interpreting into six languages vivid discussions took place with the audience, for example, on the increasing gulf between countries with high-quality information technology and those without, or on the danger of becoming dependent of this technology.

The Workshop of the Section

The workshop organised by the section „Social Science Libraries“ discussed the topic „Information see-

king for development studies,, in a most fundamental manner. The discussion culminated in the question



Hans J. Hinrup

raised by a Danish lecturer: „Do we still need librarians?" As seen many times on IFLA conferences, the workshop took place off-site, i. e. in the People's University so that numerous Chinese colleagues and members of the local university could take part and were very surprised and enthusiastic

about the Western style of discussion.

Future Topics of the Section: call for papers

The section „Social Science Libraries" will hold a pre-conference seminar at next year's IFLA conference in Copenhagen on the topic of „Providing Public Access to Official Statistics" and an associated workshop on „Working with Statistical and Factual Data in the Social Sciences". In 1997 the perfectures session of the section will deal with „Business and Economics Libraries in Transition" and try to look

into the influence of the current change in management culture and the social change in East European countries on special economic science libraries and companies libraries. The list of lecturers for all three sessions is not yet closed. Those who are interested are kindly requested to refer to:

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To get in contact with the members of the IFLA Section on Social Science Libraries subscribe to our discussion list at "listserv@nic.surfnet.nl" with the command: "subscribe SOC-LIB your first name your last name" or visit our website at "www.fh-potsdam.de/~IFLA"

Minutes of the Standing Committee Meetings in Beijing

24th and 29th August 1996

Present:

Hans-Christoph Hobohm (Chairman),
Eva Thomson-Roos (Secretary),
Leif Lorring, Mary Noel Gouke, Stanley Kalkus,
Yvonne Abitbol-Touboul, Jean Porter,
Michael Koenig, Kyllikkii Ruokonen,
Diann Rusch-Feja (29th August),
Eeva-Liisa Lehtonen (Observer), Märta Ahlbeck (Observer), Robert Klaverstijn (Observer 29th August),
Helmi M Foudeh (Observer 29th August) and
Valborg Stefansdottir (Observer 29th August).

1. Everybody present introduced themselves and their institutions.

2. The minutes from the last meetings of the Standing Committee in Istanbul were accepted as well as the proposed agenda.

3. Mr Hobohm gave a brief overview of the programs for the Sections during the conference and strongly recommended members of the Standing Committee to attend these and also the discussion on the medium term program that would take place on Wednesday

4. Mr Hobohm reported from the meeting of the Professional Board. He mentioned the fact that he had taken over the editing of INSPEL.

5. Mr Hobohm in his capacity of treasurer gave the financial report for the year stating that out of 4551 DM available (administrative funds + project funds) there were about 3166 left at the time of the conference. But there still remains some costs for fax and phone-calls to be covered. The financial statement was discussed and accepted.

6. The chairman reported on the work being done by him and Leif Lorring in connection with the open session and the workshop in Beijing. He also reported on the listserv that thanks to Repke de Vries had been established. It was decided to keep it open to anybody. He then reported on the activities to establish the home-page of the section that had been done in Potsdam.

7. The secretary reported that according to statistics from IFLA Headquarters the section had 77 members at present. The importance of active recruiting of new members was stressed in order to reach the



The Chinese Wall

81 member limit seeing that this would raise the Sections funding. Jean Porter and Mary Noel Gouke promised to establish contacts with the relevant group of Special Libraries Association and advertise the section there.

8. Mr Hobohm reported on the difficult work required by the IFLA group evaluation and thanked Kyllikki Ruokonen and Ekkehard Seusing for the work done by them in this matter. The specific problems mentioned were lack of time specially for activities in-between conferences and too little money. Another point discussed was whether it might be worthwhile to change the name of the section to specifically include Business and Economics. It was decided that since this would cause problems with several other kinds of Social Science Libraries e.g. within Psychology, Education etc. it was better to stick to the present name. Instead it was decided to have a special program in Copenhagen for Business and Economics.

9. It was decided to let the secretary act as information co-ordinator of the section

10. The members present strongly urged that there should be two issues of the Newsletter in the future. One should consist of minutes of the Standing Committee meetings and material from the Workshop and some general information on attendees. The next one should focus on the coming conference in Copenhagen. The secretary agreed on this in her capacity of editor but stressed that she would need contributions from the members. It was agreed that the Newsletter should be put on the home-page.

11. The chair and Jean Porter were complimented on the new brochure. It was suggested that the address of the secretary should be added to the text and that efforts should be made to have it translated into other languages e.g. German and Chinese.

12. Ongoing projects were introduced and commented on :

• **SSID-bibliography** . Kyllikki Ruokonen gave her last annual report on this project and stated that Helsinki School of Economics could no longer edit and host the bibliography. It was decided that the project should be transformed to the Web-site at Potsdam and that a formula should be added so that it could be automatically updated from the authors themselves. Diann Rusch-Feja agreed to act as joint editor with Hans-Christoph Hobohm and in close cooperation with Kyllikki Ruokonen. The complete conversion and transformation of the bibliography to the Web-site would constitute a new



Kyllikki Ruokonen and Hans-Christoph Hobohm

project and be forwarded to Co-ordinating Board.

• **Social Science Virtual Library**. The chairman received compliments for his efforts with the home-page (Appendix 2) Ideas to augment it with the formula mentioned above and with links to web-sites from the members were discussed

• **SOC-LIB**. It was decided to keep this listserv going and open to everybody interested. Some duplications with the IFLA-list were acceptable, since not everybody is a member of that list Yvonne Abitbol-Touboul offered to translate documents pertaining to the Section into French if they were sent to her Institute. This was the result of a special offer made by the French Ministry of Culture.

13. Activities from the Section in Copenhagen 1997:

• A pre-seminar in the form of a joint workshop entitled "Providing public access to official statistics" specially directed at Statistical libraries had already been suggested last year by the Finland Statistical Library to be announced jointly with the Section of Government Information and Official Publications. It has been accepted and decided that it should take place the Friday preceding the general IFLA meeting.

• A half-day workshop on statistical data entitled "Accessing and working with statistical data in the social sciences" will be taken care of by Jean Porter and Mary N Gouke.

• An open session primarily directed at Business Libraries with the Heading "Economics and Business Schools libraries in transition" with 4 speakers was entrusted to Eeva-Liisa Lehtonen and Eva Thomson-Roos

• The secretary had a message from Michael Cotta-Schonberg, the Librarian of the Copenhagen Business School where he promised to hold a reception for Social Science Libraries during the conference and also invited the members of the Standing Committee to dinner.

14. Plans for Amsterdam 1998.

• Diann Rusch-Feja and Leif Lorring agreed to take joint responsibility for a workshop entitled "Library activities in support of education"

• A collaborative program with FID social science committee and ICA

is planned under the title "Bridging the gap". This had enthusiastic support from Robert Klaverstijn from FID who was present.

15. The new Medium Term program was discussed with scope notes, objectives and goals etc. but it was decided that this was a matter for the workgroup established in Istanbul consisting of the chair, Diann Rusch-Feja and Bill Bartenbach. It was suggested that Yvonne Abitbol-Touboul should join for the French wording of the text.

16. Since there was no time left for the conference evaluation form this was handed over to the chair

and secretary and filled in by them. The only strong criticism put forward was that there had been too many conflicting arrangements specially between formal committee meetings and professional sessions and workshops

September 1996

Hans-Christoph Hobohm Chairman
Eva Thomson-Roos Secretary

Dear members,

By now all of you will have received a letter from Leo Voogt on the subject of nominations for Standing Committees and a formula to send in to headquarters before the end of February 1997. We welcome you to send in nominations.

Our section requires two new members since Stanley Kalkus and Ekkehard Seusing to our sorrow can not be re-elected. We expect and hope that all other members will remain for a second term of office. Our chairman will write directly to those of you that need a formal re-election in 1997 to remain with us.

Below we quote the guidelines for nominations. See next page for a list of present members.

Eva Thomson-Roos

Guidelines for the Nominations of Standing Committee Members for IFLA Sections, term 1997-2001.

1. Each Member registered for a Section may not nominate more than one candidate for the Standing Committee of that particular Section
2. Nominations in writing and signed by a competent authority of the nominating Member must reach IFLA HQ not later than 1 March 1997. Please use "special form".
3. To be placed on the ballot, a candidate for election shall be nominated by:
 - a) one Association Member or
 - b) no fewer than two Institutional Members. These nominations may be sent separately.
4. To be placed on the ballot, a nominee should have working knowledge of at least one language of the Federation, and should have reasonable expect-

tation of attending meetings of the Standing Committee without cost to the Federation. IFLA's forthcoming conferences will be held in Copenhagen (31 August - 5 September 1997), Amsterdam (16-21 August 1998), Bangkok (19-28 August 1999) and Jerusalem (August 2000).

5. Please also bear in mind that IFLA's Rules of Procedure give Standing Committee members the possibility to select up to 5 corresponding members to provide for experts from countries or geographical areas which would not otherwise be regularly represented. Corresponding members are entitled to participate and speak in Standing Committee meetings, but have no voting rights (Art. 8.3.17). This possibility allows interested persons to become involved without entering into a regular commitment to attend conferences.

6. The nomination must be accompanied by:

- a) a statement of the nominee that he/she accepts the nomination
- b) a short statement of qualifications and present position
- c) a statement by the nominee that he/she can meet the requirements specified under item 4.

Standing committee and corresponding members

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