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A Brief Account of Librarianship in China

Du Ke.

Abstract

For the occasion of the 62nd IFLA General Conference to be held in Beijing, China from 25 to 31 August 1995, the author presents a survey of the historical background to the development of librarianship in China. Also covered are library education and research, the enhancement of international information flow and cooperation, applications of modern technology in libraries, and plans for the future.

Fifty Years of United Nations Publishing Activities

Piguet, Patrice

Abstract

In addition to recalling 50 years of United Nations publishing activities, this article provides an overview of the programme in order to encourage the use of United Nations publications for research purposes as well as for the study of the Organization's principles and purposes. The year 1995 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The publishing activities of the organization, however, reach back to the League of Nations and even farther than that. The article demonstrates the importance of some United Nations publications to specialized readerships as well as to the interested public. It explains the

concepts and process of publishing activities and provides an overview of the publications programme and of the bodies and programmes which generate the media output. The United Nations microfiche, CD-ROM and online publishing programmes are also described. A chronological listing of 50 milestone publications, one for every year of the Organization's existence, conclude the paper.

Information Services of the International Labor Organization: A 75-Year History

Frierson, Eleanor G., Joelle Kargul-Maccabez and Sue Luzy.

Abstract

This paper outlines the historical development of the International Labor Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the UN, focusing on the role and functions of its network of information services worldwide. The ILO's mission is the promotion of democracy, the fight against poverty and the protection of working people everywhere. Information gathering, publishing and dissemination have been prime activities of the ILO since its inception in 1919. To this end, the ILO Central Library plays an important role in the development of information standards and tools which can be used not only by the ILO's own information services, but also by information managers in ministries of labor and in employers' and workers' organizations in the ILO's 171 Member States. The paper describes the setting up of the International Labor Information System (ILIS) to promote information exchange, and the ILIS Referral System which gives access to many ILO-produced databases, and closes with a summary of recent trends, such as the move toward interlibrary cooperation within the UN system, in particular the standardization of bibliographic data and improvement of electronic systems for sharing library data.

Fifty Years of Publishing in FAO

Richmond, Keith and Jane Wu.

Abstract

For 50 years the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has been disseminating information on agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and forestry. Whereas in the past this output has been in the form of printed books and periodicals, the advent of new technology has brought in significant changes in the way that FAO's publishing is carried out. There are already clear indications about how this could develop in the future, as the full potential of the electronic revolution is realized. This paper examines FAO's publishing history during the past half century and attempts to look towards the future. In particular, it outlines the special efforts that an international agency such as FAO has to make to ensure that its published material reaches the hands of those who need it most in developing countries.

A Chronological Perspective of the United Nations Office at Geneva Library (1919-1995)

Leneman, Nina Kriz.

Abstract

This chronology was originally prepared in honor of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) Library, which was founded as the League of Nations Library. This chronological perspective (1919-1995) is meant as a tribute to the UNOG Library which has served for the last 76 years as "a centre of international research" and "an instrument of international understanding". The UNOG Library is the "institutional memory of the League of Nations and the United Nations" and as such has a leading cultural role to play within the United Nations system. It is involved in the preparation of bibliographies, publications, CD-ROMs, audio CDs, videos and other productions that retrace United Nations historical legacies and in the organization of commemorative exhibitions in its Museum of the League of Nations and the History of International Organizations. The UNOG Library is generally recognized as being one of the leading social science libraries of Europe on account of its valuable collections in the fields of international economics, law, political science, statistics, and social questions. In contrast with its established traditional role, the UNOG Library has also forged ahead during the last few years to become a vibrant information and media centre. It offers modern technological facilities that enable its user community to access CD-ROMs, audio CDs, documentation on optical disks, videos, online database hosts and Internet resources, and has itself become active in the creation of many innovative new products.

Housing our Collections: Environment and Storage for Libraries and Archives

Foot, Mirjam M.

Abstract

The management of collections in libraries and archives should be determined by the aim and purpose of the library or repository and by the nature of the collections themselves. Standards for the storage and maintenance of our collections are important, but they must be applicable to a wide variety of external circumstances. They must also be interpreted and applied in a way that serves the purpose of the library and the needs of the collections. The prevailing climate, the social and financial circumstances, the nature of existing buildings, the purpose of the collections, all have to be considered when storage conditions are determined. Security, fire risk, chemical and physical deterioration and their causes need to be understood. Storage is a core function of any library, but it must be considered in relation to other library functions and to the needs of present and future library users.

Providing Access to Rare Book and Manuscript Collections and Services in

a Time of Change: The Electronic Revolution

Snyder, Henry L.

Abstract

Although machine-readable records have been in existence for more than a generation, older materials have been the last to benefit. Standards applied to most mass retroconversion projects are not suitable for older materials, and the products of the handpress, printing before 1830. After describing various projects, mostly in North America and Europe, the author notes that most projects have a limited impact upon providing access to the full riches of the libraries of any given region or country. Moreover, there has been little if any attempt to meld them into a single union catalogue, not even nationally, because of the many problems encountered in melding files. The necessity of tackling these problems has been addressed by various organizations, the most noteworthy of which is of the Consortium of European Libraries. IFLA through the development of UNIMARC and ISBD(A) has made a major contribution. The challenge is now to the compilers of rules and the designers of formats to bring the systems in use into greater consistency and conformity.

Will the Global Information Infrastructure Be the Library of the Future? Central and Eastern Europe as a Case Example

Borgman, Christine L.

Abstract

The article addresses technical and policy issues in the development of an international infrastructure for the flow of information by studying the emerging national information infrastructures in six post-communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The study consisted of interviews with 300+ library managers, computing network administrators, government policy makers and other information professionals conducted in 1993 and 1994 in Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, plus a 1994 mail survey of research libraries in these countries. After presenting the principles under which the G-7 (Group of Seven) leading industrialized countries have agreed to collaborate on constructing a Global Information Infrastructure (GII), the author gives examples from the survey on how the GII principles might be addressed.

Management Issues for Libraries and Information Service Managers: A Review of the Literature of 1995

Herrera, Luis A. and Ricardo Rodríguez Pereyra.

Abstract

This article reviews the general literature of management published in 1995 in order to

identify trends which may impact on the management of library and information services. It is an initiative of the Round Table on Management.

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