

2010 Conference

World Library and Information Congress - 76th IFLA General Conference and Council



"Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress"

Gothenburg, Sweden,
10-15 August 2010

The section

The Information Technology Section (ITS) serves to promote and advance the application of information technologies (IT) to library and information services in all societies, through activities related to standards, education and training, research, and the marketplace.

Visit our new website at
<http://www.ifla.org/en/it>

The Committee

At present, the standing Committee of the ITS has 25 members from 23 different countries. There are ballots for elections every two years, as members complete their terms of four years. See the complete list of SC member at the end of this newsletter.

Current officers are:

Reinhard Altenhöner, Chair,
(r.altenhoener@d-nb.de)

Alenka Kavčič-Čolić, Secretary
(alenka.kavcic@nuk.uni-lj.si)

The Membership

ITS is the second biggest section in IFLA with over 400 members from 90 countries and all types of libraries.

If you are not a member of **IFLA** and would like to join, please contact **IFLA Headquarters** or consult the IFLA membership information at
<http://www.ifla.org/en/membership>

If you are already a member but want to join the IT Section please review the section "How to register for IFLA Sections".
<http://www.ifla.org/en/membership/application>

The **Information Technology Section Newsletter** is published twice a year for free distribution. It serves to inform the **ITS** members of the Section's activities, IFLA updates and events related to IT & libraries.

Current editor: Edmund Balnaves (ejb@prosentient.com.au). All contributions are welcome.

To receive this *Newsletter* send your email to the **ITS** Information Co-ordinator.

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The previous issue of the Newsletter was published in July 2009.

Editorial

by Edmund Balnaves ejb@prosentient.com.au



The last decade has witnessed considerable innovation in areas of open source and open access, as well as in new platforms for information delivery and new methods for service delivery in a world of ubiquitous mobility. In this context the Section has extended its collaboration with the Knowledge Management Section, the Statistics Section, the Preservation and Conservation section, as well as undertaking specific projects with other sections (for instance the section participated in the Parliamentary Libraries workshop on Open source systems in Rome, 2009). You can read more about our section activities in the annual report—which you can find at [http://www.ifla.org/files/information-technology/IFLA ITS Annual report 2009 final.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/information-technology/IFLA%20ITS%20Annual%20report%202009%20final.pdf)

The two meetings at Milan 2009 reflected the heightened engagement of the section across a wide spectrum of interests. Working groups were established to discuss and plan during the Milan conference ways the ways to achieve progress in the key areas of interest to the section. These groups are:

- **Open source group** – organised by Edmund Balnaves
- **Semantic web group** – organised by Emmanuelle Bermes
- **Digital preservation group** - organised by Hilde van Wijngaarden
- **m-Services group** - Development of library services on mobile phones – organised by Patrick Danowski

In the minutes Alenka Kavčič - Čolić reported about the activities accomplished last year which included:

- Organization of the satellite meeting “Emerging trends in technology: libraries between Web 2.0, semantic web and search technology”, Florence 19-20 August 2009.
- Organization of the IT core session: “New repositories: architectures interoperability and data exchange”
- The new IFLA website has been launched and the information co-coordinator has access to maintain this site. The IT section site now includes an open source blog. Wiki services are also available. Wider editorial access to the site to standing committee members will be available later in the year/early next year.
- RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) (position paper from ITS and follow-up). This paper was handed over to IFLA HQ and was given into the decision stream of IFLA. Until now no reaction was noted, the issue is pending, nevertheless S. Hamilton has repeated the request for assistance in negotiation in relation to RFID adoption in Europe.
- Workshop in Rome: “Leveraging Technology for Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services”. Edmund Balnaves reported on the workshop he organized together with the Parliamentary Libraries Section in Rome, 19-21 August 2009. A virtual image of Koha (Edmund Bal-

naves) and Dspace (Flavio Zeni) was used for hands-on introduction to open source systems. There were 40+ participants from different developing countries (one IT manager and one Library manager from each institution).

- **Monday, 24 August - 09.30-12.45** - *Statistics and Evaluation, Information Technology and Preservation and Conservation: Statistics for the cultural heritage*. Reinhard Altenhoener chaired the session.
- **Tuesday, 25 August 2009 - 09.30-12.45** - *Knowledge Management, Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Information Technology: Social computing tools for learning acknowledge sharing*. Frank Cervone chaired the session and in addition presented a paper. .
- **Wednesday, 26 August 2009 – 11:45-12:45** - *Libraries and the Web 2.0* – The Library 2.0 project showroom - organized and discussion moderated by Patrick Danowski and the SIG libraries and Web 2.0. The number of participants exceed all expectations. Next year, a bigger conference room will be needed.
- **Thursday, 27 August 2009 – 8:30-10:30** - *IT Section core session: New repositories: architectures interoperability and data exchange*: Edmund Balnaves was the Chair of the session.

The details of the meetings in Milan can be found in the full minutes at http://www.ifla.org/files/information-technology/Milan2009_MinutesFinal.pdf

In this special edition of the Newsletter we are focusing on the activities of the IT Section. There were many exciting directions set out in the meetings at Milan 2009. The direction of each working group are framed around the broader goals of the IT Section strategic plan. We have summarized these goals on page 4 of the newsletter. You will then find from each working group a discussion of the key projects underway. Do contact the editor (ejb@prosentient.com.au) or the relevant working groups if you wish to participate in these initiatives.

AN IT SECTION SUCCESS

The Resolution that you submitted on behalf of your Sections to IFLA’s General Assembly in Milan, August 2009, was referred to the Professional Committee for advise.

On 30 November the PC considered it and a recommendation was made to the Governing Board for its meeting on 2 December.

The resolution asked IFLA to provide free internet access for delegates in Milan and future IFLA Congresses. As you know Wifi for all delegates was provided in Milan from Tuesday 25 August onward. For future congresses free internet access will be part of the Congress budgets; it will require case-by-case negotiations, as the situation is different for different convention centers. IFLA will, however, make sure that free internet access will be available through a combination of Wifi and Internet café(s) for those who are not travelling with lap top computers.

Sjoerd Koopman

Professional Programmes Director

Information Technology Section Strategic Plan 2010-2011

The Information Technology Section has released its Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2011. You can review the full strategic plan on the IFLA Information Technology Section website at

<http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/strategic-plan-28>

Goals

1

ITS will investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge and practical advice about information technology innovations that have or could become significant potential for library services in present or in future, but which have not been widely adopted for different reasons.

2

Develop and promote technologies and services supporting Digital Libraries. Communicate new developments in Digital Library Services and standards to relevant committees.

3

ITS will investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge about applicable IT for access to information resources, with special attention to needs regarding regions where telecommunication networks are of low capacity, or are not easily affordable.

4

ITS will identify and promote standards, guidelines and best practices for the management of information and IT resources and improve efficiency and service level of library operations, and interoperability between library systems and between library services and other information services. This includes issues such as metadata and data structures, data manipulation techniques and long-term availability of electronic information

5

ITS will encourage and support projects within the scope of the strategic plan by maintaining close contacts with other IFLA sections and Core Activities, as well as with other international associations and organizations focused on IT.

SECTION FOCUS

Open Source

Open Source Working Group

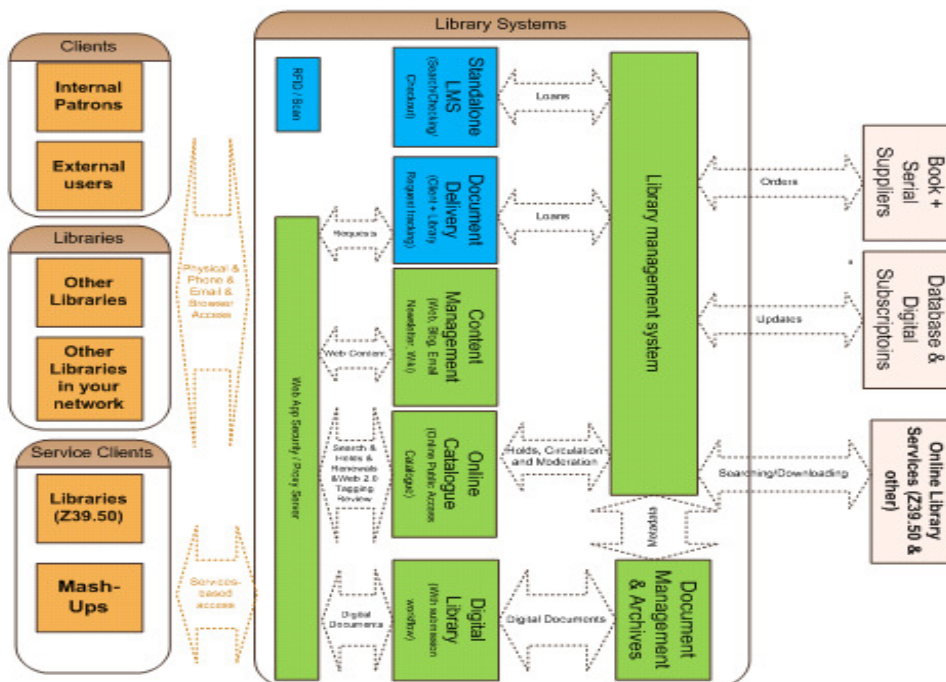
One of the interest areas identified during the first IFLA IT section meeting in Milan was the furtherance of open source initiatives. A follow-up meeting was held to discuss the ways in which the IFLA standing committee could encourage initiatives in open source.

The EIFL-Foss activities have been significant in promoting open-source understanding and adoption. The section itself has been promoting a model for enterprise architecture for open source in libraries was presented by Dr Balnaves. Also discussed were the ways in which open source and open access initiatives can interact, and the possibilities for open source publishing systems to interact with open source library services.

The Milan meeting examined ways in which the standing committee engage with open source initiatives. These actions centred on two areas:

1. direct activities of the IFLA IT section in promoting standards in open source and publicising open source frameworks for libraries
2. working with other agencies actively involved in open source to encourage regional support initiatives for open source, recommend projects that facilitate adoption of open source and work with UN/UNESCO and EIFL-Net in their open source initiatives.

Arising from this discussion were the following recommendations for discussion in the final IFLA IT Section meeting.



From Edmund Balnaves— Leveraging Technology for Parliamentary Libraries—Rome 2009

Direct activities of the IFLA IT section

- a) Promote an enterprise vision of open source for libraries by:
 - Establishing an open-source sub-site with open source comparative reviews and enterprise open source architecture for libraries & with recommendations
 - Promoting the interaction between open access and open source and institutions as publishers
- b) Communicate successful strategies, examples and standards in open source deployment by:
 - Documenting / Sharing experience in Integrating open source systems (LMS to Digital library. Publishing to Digital library) and promoting standardised interfaces
 - Publishing a special issue newsletter focussing on Open Source
- c) Examining the possibility of a 1 day workshop on Open Source systems at the IFLA congress in Gothenburg

Collaborate with other key institutions

Institutions such as UNESCO / UN /ICT 4D have shown considerable interest in Open source as a means to delivery enhanced services in developing countries. Collaboration with organisations promoting information literacy is also an interesting avenue forward. Other technological avenues are the exploration and promotion of Virtualisation approaches offer opportunities to implement “out of the box” examples of open source enterprise implementations (including Library management systems and Digital Library systems).

In this context it could be valuable to promote funding for a project developing a virtualised example of the Enterprise open source library service architecture. This would simplify the process of evaluation of open source options in the context of specific library requirements.

This evaluation would be facilitated by the development of effective models from cross-system integration in the open source context and an enterprise model for open source implementation in libraries.

For further information contact:
Edmund Balnaves
ejb@prosentient.com.au

SECTION FOCUS

Semantic Web



Semantic Web Working Group

The IT section took the opportunity of the 75th IFLA congress in Milan to advocate the Semantic Web as one of the hot topics that should be paid special attention in the forthcoming years. The Semantic Web is a very broad area and there is already much ongoing activity at the international level, although not focused on libraries. Following the IFLA standing committee meeting in Milan, the committee has prepared a proposal on how the IT Section of IFLA envisions its contribution to these activities in the future. We have identified several topics within the semantic Web activities and technologies that are of interest to the library community and that we are willing to promote as topics for IFLA.

Areas of Focus

Data modelling and URI design: there are already several ontologies in the field of bibliographic data (BIBO, FRBR, MarcOnt) and other related standards (Dublin Core, OAI-ORE, etc.) and we feel there is a strong need to enable a greater collaboration in this field and draw a clear vision of how these existing initiatives can be related and articulated. Software evaluation and benchmarking: we share the concern of the Semantic Web community that these technologies will only foster adoption if tools with a high level of performance and technical reliability are provided. Initiatives aiming at testing triple stores within the library community and using library data (which can be more complex than datasets commonly used for software benchmarking in other fields) should be encouraged and we hope they will share their results within IFLA.

Success stories: existing projects using Semantic Web technologies should be encouraged to share their results within IFLA. We would like to have specific insight from companies like Talis or OCLC and their ongoing work in this field.

Trust issue: this issue being the upper layer of the Semantic Web « layer cake » has been identified as critical by the Semantic Web community. It mainly includes being able to ensure digital provenance of RDF data and to qualify authoritative datasets. Libraries traditionally play a major role in the field of providing and identifying authoritative data and they should actively contribute this debate.

Licensing issue: clarifying the licensing of the library data that is to be released on the Web is an absolute prerequisite, and a strong action is necessary in order to achieve the paradigm shift towards open data.

Possible actions

Advocacy and awareness raising (starting in 2009) : through the organisation of dedicated sessions or satellite meetings on these topics for the future IFLA congresses. It is necessary that a wider part of the library community is made aware of these topics and their relevance to libraries' action in the future.

Technology watch reports and list of projects (starting in 2009) : action in the Semantic Web area in libraries already exist but there is probably a need for better identification, coordination and sharing around these actions in libraries. The IFLA IT section could use IFLA information tools such as its Website, Newsletter and others to help create a kind of registry of library oriented semantic Web initiatives. This could include national overviews in different countries.

Providing best practice and possibly guidelines (starting in 2010) : the field still has to mature so that libraries can elaborate their guidelines for providing their data on the semantic Web, but action in this regard could start by next year if we gather enough feedback in the meantime.

Contributing the standardization effort (starting in 2010) : Semantic Web standards are elaborated within the W3C where libraries don't necessarily have a strong representation. Standardisation is a time-consuming process and we don't have the resources to be present in all the relevant working groups. It would be more relevant to have a dedicated library subgroup in the W3C semantic Web activities (such as an incubator group, meant to encourage business implementation of the standards). The IT section will make some contacts to see if such a group could exist and will explore its possible contribution.

The IT section would like also to propose for the Gothenburg 2010 congress a training session, possibly 2 or 3 slots of 1 hour split over 2 or 3 days. The idea is to allow a small group of interested people to learn more about the semantic Web and how it can help them in their activities and missions, without having a heavy and long session which is sometimes difficult to understand when technical matters are involved, and may discourage less tech-savvy librarians to interest themselves to the topic. The Semantic Web, a cross-domain topic for IFLA The IT section is not the only IFLA entity that has an interest in semantic Web technologies. We would like to gather interests of a variety of other sections that have a concern in data modelling - such as Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing, and Knowledge Management. Regarding the licensing of library data issue, a collaboration is possible with the Copyright and legal matters group and with entities related with national libraries (ICADS, National libraries section, CDNL) is also relevant.

For further information contact Emmanuelle Bermes at emmanuelle.bermes@bnf.fr

CALL FOR PAPERS: *Libraries and the Semantic Web*

THE TOPIC: Since its premises the Semantic Web has always raised a strong interest within the library community. Now that libraries have fully entered the Web 2.0, they are facing a new challenge as they are seeking to play a major role in the Web value chain, by empowering their services in the user's flow and making their data work harder, in a more accessible and reusable way. Semantic Web technologies open valuable opportunities for the development of these objectives, by creating appropriate data models that will be the next generation of library metadata formats, leveraging new technologies for innovative library systems, or making high-quality level data such as authority data or thesauri available to a wider community. However, these opportunities are still only known to a smaller community of technically savvy librarians, and the strategic importance of these topics to the library community at large has to be demonstrated. Therefore the session aims for raising awareness among the library community about the relevance and potential of Semantic Web technologies for libraries.

See: <http://www.ifla.org/files/information-technology/IFLA2010-SW-CFP.pdf> for full the full call

SUBMISSIONS

1. The deadline for submitting a detailed, abstract (500 words) and full author details is **31 January 2010**. Selection of papers is based on the abstract, and presenters will be notified by the end of February 2010 at the latest whether they have been successful.
2. All submissions should be sent to Alenka Kavcic-Colic, Secretary of the Information Technology Section, e-mail: alenka.kavcic@nuk.uni-lj.si.
3. The full paper is due on 15 May 2010 and must be an original submission not published elsewhere.
4. Both abstracts and full papers should be submitted as a MS Word file by e-mail; fax or post should be used only as a last resort.
5. Papers should be of up to 4000 words.
6. Papers should be in English with an abstract, and the presenter must be fluent in English.
7. 20 minutes will be allowed for a summary delivery of the paper in the Conference.

The author(s) should indicate his/her personal full contact details and include a summary curriculum vitae with the paper. Also, a digital photograph would be useful. the expenses of attending the conference (including travel, expenses and conference fee) will be the responsibility of the author(s)/presenter(s) of accepted papers.

SECTION FOCUS

m-Services

Library 2.0 Working Group

An important area of innovation in library services that is developing rapidly is that of mobility computing and ubiquitous mobility in delivery of services. This newsletter has reported on recent innovations in Kindle and iPod delivery of services and this is expected to be a rapidly developing area for library service innovation.

The Library 2.0 Discussion Group has existed in the ITS Section since 2007 has been successfully transferred into a Special Interest Group. The congress in Milan was used to identify new topics and to emphasize planning for the next Congress in Gothenburg. Emphasis then will be mobile computing and potentials arising from the developments in particular by the geo-location and the devices integrated multimedia features.

In this context the Gothenburg 2010 Web 2.0 session will have a Library 2.0 theme of Mobility Computing and delivery of m-services in the context of ubiquitous mobility. The SIG will also work with the Scottish libraries and Information Council to promulgate Library 2.0 guidelines at an international level. To start working on this the guidelines of Scottish libraries can be a starting point

(they will be published under a Creative Commons License.

The iSSRN application recently announced is an example of the rapidly developing area of mobile devices. iSSRN is a free iPhone Application. "It provides instant access to the latest Social Science and Humanities research in the SSRN eLibrary from scholars around the world. iSSRN is available from Apple's iTunes store." (from <http://ssrnblog.com/tag/issrn/>)

The application allows iPhone and iPod Touch users to search and retrieve from the collection of 250,000 Social Science Research Network (SSRN) full text articles. The SSRN eLibrary has both a large database of abstracts and a full text database. Full text documents are downloadable in Adobe PDF format.

For further information contact Patrick Danowski patrick.danowski@web.de

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A Taxonomy of Privacy

[Daniel J. Solove](#)

George Washington University Law School

GWU Law School Public Law Research Paper No. 129,
University of Pennsylvania Law Review, Vol. 154, No. 3,
p. 477, January 2006

Abstract:
Privacy is a concept in disarray. Nobody can articulate what it means. As one commentator has observed, privacy suffers from an embarrassment of meanings. Privacy is far too vague a concept to guide adjudication and lawmaking, as abstract incantations of the importance of privacy do not fare well when pitted against more concretely-stated countervailing interests.

SECTION FOCUS

Preservation

Digital preservation starts at the moment of ingesting the e-content in the library or at the moment of producing the digital material. But in most cases the digital preservation processes are included later, after the collection of digital material has been already stored in the library, and is undertaken separately. The most important question is how to integrate digital preservation in the library workflow from the very beginning. This topic addresses issues such as:

- workflow modelling and design
- organizational change and decision making
- integration of different communities into digital preservation flows
- success stories or implementations in libraries.

It would be expected from this group to cooperate with the Preservation and Conservation Section in a joint session and/or activities. But in doing so, there is a concern that at the end we shall not be able to put a complete emphasis on the processes from the IT perspective. As result, the working group proposed two different possibilities:

to organize the IT core session next year in Gothenburg dedicated to this topic. A title was suggested: *“How to integrate digital preservation in the library’s workflow: mission impossible?”*

It was also suggested to contact ICADS and try to organize some joint activities. Gothenburg will be an opportunity to focus on Digital preservation issues by making this the principle theme of the IT Section (in the area of Workflow) in addition to any collaboration with the Digital Preservation & Conservation Section.

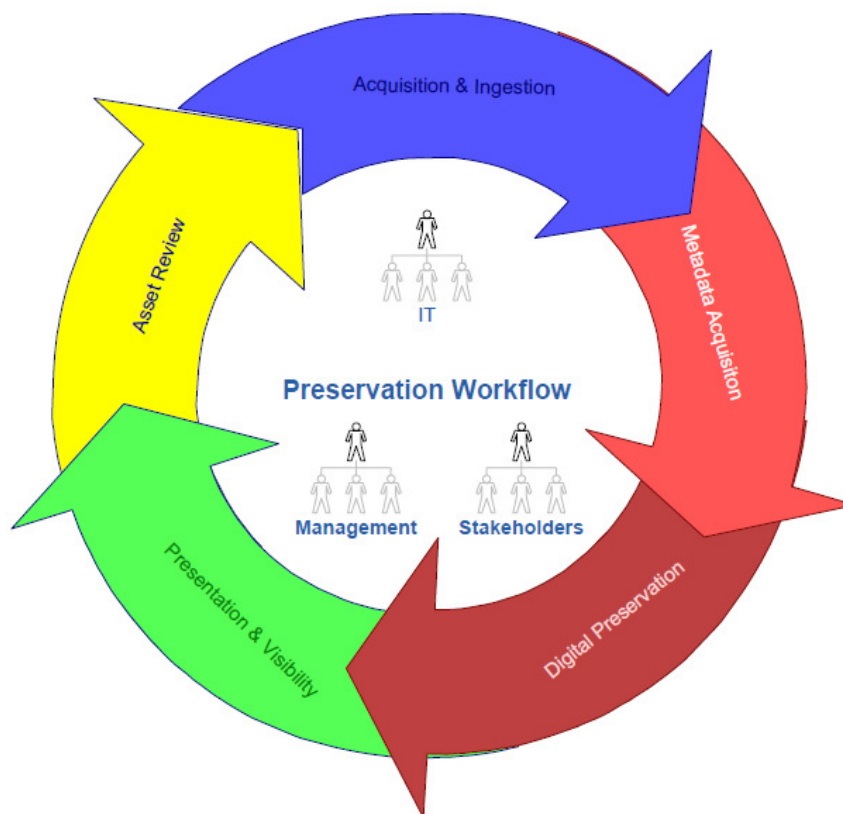
Given the importance of developing effective models for workflow in the preservation process, the IT section proposed this as their principle theme at Gothenburg. The proposed theme for the section is *“Integrating digital preservation in the library workflow... Mission impossible?”* to encapsulate the difficulties encompassing technological and management boundaries as well as the issues around sustainable practice and continual review of the quality of digitally preserved data.

Digital preservation as a topic is moving from being a purely technical issue to an organisational issue, but with a strong IT component. In contrary to traditional workflows, IT has to be involved from the start of the chain, preferably at the time of production of a publication. Collection specialists now have to learn about technical properties of publications, or have to work closely together with a digital collections specialist or IT person, to build their collections.

Acquisitions and processing has to follow a new workflow as well, and that new workflow has to be set up together with IT-people. Archival storage may still be an IT issue, but cannot be build and implemented without clear requirements from the organisation on preservation requirements, significant properties and collection value. Finally, at the end of delivery, requirements and expectations on performance, may conflict with IT and collections preferences and technical possibilities. In short, the new workflow where digital preservation is an integral part, is different in two ways:

- IT has to be involved in every step
- Every phase in the chain is much more closely connected to each other

For further information contact Alenka Kavčič-Čolić (alenka.kavcic@nuk.uni-lj.si)



Integrating the Preservation workflow in the Organisation
(E. Balnaves)

Comment

e-Publishing

CAMPUS-BASED PUBLISHING: CAN A MARRIAGE OF THE LIBRARY WITH THE UNIVERSITY PRESS SPARC A SOLUTION TO THE SERIALS PRICING CRISIS?

Author: John Ben DeVette, President
DeVette Publishing Solutions johnben@devettepublishing.com
 John blogs at <http://devette.wordpress.com>

CAMPUS-BASED PUBLISHING

Campus-based publishing is a new phenomenon taking place at some of the world's leading universities. Campus-based publishing is where the university press and the library form a partnership, often one combined organization with singular leadership and a mandate from the university chancellor to be the general manager of the entire flow of information from consumption to creation to storage to dissemination. These new entities are self-serving and proud of it!

PROBLEMS WITH LEGACY PUBLISHING SYSTEMS

The customer is not happy. The cost of information has been increasing at exorbitant rates for at least 50 years. For decades, librarians who tried to warn us felt like they were yelling at the mountains, and all they heard was the echo of their own voices in response. But about 10 years ago, academics joined the fray, and the real battle began. Today everyone from the university provost to the faculty to national governments is taking action. Academia is making fundamental changes to the way the universities package and distribute scholarly communications and published results. The world wide web changed the way scholars communicate, creating new opportunities for information management.

For decades, universities have had established university presses. Also, for decades these in-house publishing units have acted mostly independent of their faculties' traditional activities of research and reporting, and their libraries' information management responsibilities. It has become obvious that universities have been sitting in a vast pool of learning (a knowledge base) that has been growing and maturing in their own backyard, but has been miss-managed and underutilized.

The creation of local institutional repositories was the first reaction to the realization that too many authors have been sending out copies of their research without depositing copies at their home university for local use. But to date, institutional repositories have not had the expected positive impact of saving universities money. Too often, constraints of copyright has limited any broad use of local repositories.

TRENDS IN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING TODAY:

Academic publishing is dominated by 4-5 profitable and growing corporations who dictate pricing and own copyright to almost all scholarship published in the last half century. Most have lost hope that this oligopoly of publishers will create affordable products. Yet:

- 10% of all current journals published are open access.
- Open access journals are more heavily used than for profit competing journals.
- Thousands of scholarly journals are now published with open source software.
- 34% of scientists use blogs to discuss research with their

peers (1).

- Google has scanned more than 10 million of an intended 30 million books.
- Almost all universities now have an institutional repository.
- Most institutional repositories are underutilized and poorly managed.
- Spending on information is growing, but library serials budgets are declining.
- Journals are used primarily for archival and teaching, not research.
- The traditional library model may be unsustainable.
- There are dozens of radically different publishing models being tested at this very moment, including integration of library systems, and open source publishing
- Several dozen universities have merged the library and university press (2).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIBRARIES

So far, institutional repositories have disappointed because they were built primarily for storage. Dissemination is an important part of the information food chain. By using the new open source e-publishing tools available today, universities can shave many millions of dollars off the cost of publishing(3). It is crucial for the long term viability of universities to retain control of the knowledge they create. University presses know how to publish. Libraries are experts at acquiring and archiving information. They have years of experience in user training, too. While most of this training is focused on how to use library resources, it can be expanded to include how to manage one's intellectual property, how to write better papers, how and when to blog. The library can become the intra-university marketing arm of the press. The press can become the dissemination arm of the library. The rise of the Internet has created new efficiencies. New business models cut out middlemen, and allow producers to sell direct to the consumers. Ironically, in the academic world the producers are also the consumers.

Libraries should understand their strengths and apply them to the job at hand. They should talk openly with their university press about the situation, and proactively go to administration with suggestions in this area. Librarians know what they are good at. They should put their best foot forward, and build a campus-based publishing system that leverages the library's strengths and satisfies the university's needs.

References

- (1) Bly, A. (2009) Keynote address at the Society for Scholarly Publishing 31st Annual Meeting: Media Rearchitecting Science: A New Vision and Framework for STM in the 21st Century. 28 May 2009.
- (2) Retrieved from <http://scholcomm.columbia.edu/partnership-institutions> on 17 December 2009.
- (3) SPARC site with a host of services supporting campus-based publishing: <http://www.arl.org/sparc/partnering/>

News



Edge 2010

25th – 26th February 2010

General Information

The Edge 2010 National Conference is the premier development event for elected members, Chief Executives, Directors, Heads of Service, trustees, E-government and community professionals, library vendors, and others with an interest in libraries and information. Edge 2010 will provide opportunities to learn about innovative practice in libraries, buildings and community information. See how libraries are key to delivering e-government, learning and digital inclusion. Find out the latest ideas, share success stories, hear best practices and meet colleagues from across the country and around the world.



www.edinburgh.gov.uk/edge2010

Edinburgh City Council will launch their innovative new Virtual Library at the EDGE 2010 conference in the beautiful venue of Edinburgh Castle on 25th and 26th February 2010



eIFL-FOSS— Open Source Case Studies

For the past year, 6 libraries from Malawi to Nepal have been learning a great deal about free and open source software (FOSS) integrated library systems (ILS). Case studies of their investigations, successes, and learning points are now available. The participating pilot sites in this project range from the relatively small (50,000 to 70,000 volumes) to the very large (more than 4 million volumes). They also stretch from libraries with a single systems librarian to libraries with an entire IT team.

This project was not merely about installing and using a FOSS ILS; it was about learning to engage with FOSS development and support communities. It's all about participation. We are delighted to report that the technical leads from each pilot site (and the teams they managed, where those existed) have taken engagement seriously. So much so that eIFL.net libraries are now regular contributors to the Koha [1] and Evergreen [2] development and support communities.

With the publication of these case studies we hope many more libraries within the eIFL.net community will take up the challenges and opportunities that come with FOSS in libraries.

The case studies can be accessed through the link shown below. The 6 participating pilot libraries are:

Fundamental Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia; Mzuzu University, Malawi; Library of the Faculty of Medicine; Pharmacy and Dentistry, University of Bamako, Mali; Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal; and Midlands State University Library, Zimbabwe.

<http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/eifl-foss/ils/case-studies>

<http://www.koha.org/>

<http://www.open-ils.org/>

Randy Metcalfe

eIFL-FOSS

Report on the Milan IT Session



Joint Session on Statistics and Cultural Heritage—Milan 2009

The Information Technology section held a joint conference session with the Statistics section on the theme “Statistics and Cultural Heritage”. This was an interesting session in an area of increasing importance to libraries of all sizes. The quantification of the value-add provided by libraries is becoming an increasing element in communicating their value within the organisation. This is even more so when applied to supporting the activities of libraries in preservation of cultural heritage.

The first speaker, Dr Irmhild Schafer, presented a valuable overview on the types of statistics that are particularly applicable to preservation:

- degree & type of damage
- statistics of digitisation
- Expenditure
- visits, including web visits

With very large collections the quantification of the current state of the collection becomes vital to provide the mechanisms for selecting between different strategies for preservation.

Alison Walker from the British Library discussed their “Preservation Assessment Survey (PAS) and associated survey instruments that have been in use since July 2001.

Roswitha Poll in the third presentation discussed the de-

News

velopment of a data set for assessing the state of digitisation in Europe. Test methods for continuous data collection. Some interesting figures on the cost of digitisation were presented. Elements difficult to quantify were web-based usage and specific staff costs associated with digitisation and preservation.

Trilce Navarette presented an interesting overview of the statistics that can be gleaned through web usage analysis combined with survey analysis across a large collection that is substantially digitised.

Mattias Shulz presented on open access statistics and methods for leveraging standards-based approaches to statistical generation, including: the Digital repository infrastructure vision for European research (DRIVER), the Joint information systems committee JISC, OA-Statistics (building a network of certified repositories in Germany), OA-DINI (open access network of repositories). The objective being to achieve a permanent repository for usage data and standards for exchange of usage data.

Emmanuelle Bermes focussed on the need to ensure that preservation is intrinsic to digital product production. However in the digital era boundaries for national deposit are difficult to define.

Milena Dobrova discussed the EU Minerva project and various approaches to formulating frameworks for priorities for digital preservation, including DIGIT STAG, NLNZ NLA, CUL, JISC. JISC - user related needs to take into account user-related needs. DiSCmap aims to be representative (in the UK), non hierarchical (containing old & new & modern) and granular covering- intermediaries and end users

Monika Hagedorn-saupe and Alex Ermert discussed the annual survey of museum data, comprising statistics covering visits and objects. The difficulty of counting cultural objects was discussed, including the problem of compound objects and of large installation art, and how such complex/compound objects are expressed in digitised form.

The Knowledge Management session papers can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/ifla-it-section-collaborates-in-an-interesting-session-on-statistics-for-cultural-heritage-scor>



ONTOLOGY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

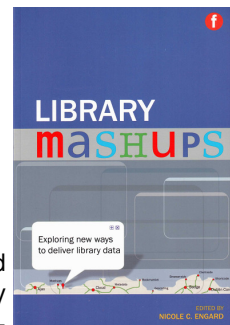
I have the pleasure to announce that the new IAOA Web site is online at www.iaoa.org.

Nicola Guarino
on behalf of the IAOA Executive Board

Book Review

Library Mashups Nicole C Engard Facet Publishing

Review by
Dr Edmund Balnaves



Getting “hands-on” is an assumed virtue in the inter-connected Library 2.0 world. This book gives an enticing view of the different ways in which you can get “hands on” with your own library services by leveraging the already available on the web in order to make a richer solution for those accessing your site. Enter the world of mashups. Nicole Egad has compiled an eclectic collection of articles that explore mashups from a number of angles. “Eclectic” because the book itself is a “mashup” of different aspects of mash-ups in the library context: from general tips to very specific implementation examples.

Many of the contributions focus on specific aspects of integrating other services with your current library website using various mashup methodologies. Derek Bradman gives a nice step-by-step guide to mashups with Google maps in his article “Where’s the Nearest Computer Lab?: Mapping Up Campus.

The opportunities are seemingly limited only by the capabilities of existing systems. Library 2.0 and the possibilities of mashups have shaken up a previously arcane area: library software. The book provides some interesting guidelines on “Breaking into the OPAC”. More research is needed, of course, into the those mashups that actually add value to the user experience of library services. At this point, however, it is important to encourage a “hands on” sense of adventure to capitalise on the opportunities of mashups in your institution.

The great value of this book is that it presents credible examples of mashups at various level of complexity. Admittedly, much of the information in this book is accessible to the industrious web-researcher online without the cost of acquiring the book. If you are considering the possibilities of an enriching your own library website using mashups with other services (such as Google), or indeed exposing your OPAC and other content to allow others to mash-up with your services, you do need somewhere to begin. It is most useful to have in one collection a series of interesting illustrations of how mashups can add real value to your library service.

Do you want to submit a **book review** for the newsletter? Send your book reviews to the newsletter editor (ejb@prosentient.com.au).

IFLA IT SECTION IN BRIEF

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