



Division of Regions (Division V) Annual Report

Africa

2012 Activities

In 2012 Africa had an active participation in LIS events. Nairobi, Kenya was a melting pot for Africa's events early in the year: the Public Library workshop; Copyright conference; XX SCECSAL (Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and South Africa Library and Information Associations); AfLIA (Africa Federation of Library and Information Associations) establishment meeting, and many more. The Africa Section also has its midterm meeting in Bulawayo hosted by NUST. A new impressive feature of the midterm meeting was the meeting with LIS students and related schools. This feature was introduced by the immediate past President of IFLA, Ellen Tise, in 2011 in Cameroon. The Regional Office hosted its Annual Public Lecture Series on African Librarianship on Africa Day. That was a first of its kind to be on this day. IFLA past President Ellen Tise was the first to deliver a lecture on Africa Day. Beginning of June at SCECSAL, the Regional Office had an exhibition stand. Communication, information sharing and/or seeking took place at the stand. IFLA Africa and IFLA as a whole got a lot of exposure, as did the marketing of AfLIA, an outcome of the 2011 African Library Summit.

2013 Activities

Under the theme "The Horizon and Beyond", the African Library Summit 2013 will be celebrated, the second event of its kind hosted by the Unisa Library, the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), the Regional Office for Africa and the IFLA Africa Section. Its aim is to create an opportunity for established leaders to engage on significant issues in support of quality library and information services and librarianship on the African continent. Date: 2 – 5 July 2013. Venue: University of South Africa, Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria, South Africa.

Asia and Oceania

2012 Activities

The Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO) held its mid-term meeting in New Zealand on February 1–2. Immediately following the mid-term meeting on February 3, the RSCAO teamed up with the Hikuwai Region of the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) to host a half-day seminar. The seminar was held at the Auckland Public Library and its theme was "Library and information services for multicultural populations in Oceania and Asia: the promotion of information literacy and digital literacies for the 21st century in support of improved education outcomes." More than 100 local librarians and information workers, including New Zealand's National Librarian, Bill Macnaught, attended the seminar. RSCAO members Michael Robinson and Chihfeng P. Lin participated in the IFLA/BSLA Program as trainers, to conduct 3 Workshops during the year in Nepal. The RSCAO Chair made a presentation on IFLA and the A&O Section to the Vietnamese Library Association in Hanoi, organized by the Vietnamese Library Association and National Library of Vietnam. RSCAO member (Advisor) Dr Shawky Salem made a presentation on IFLA and the A&O section at the Lebanese Library Association Conference, Beirut. The RSCAO assisted the Myanmar Library Association with its submission for 2013 IFLA project funding; focusing on digital literacies and information literacy in small island states in Oceania. Moreover, the RSCAO assisted IFLA HQ in obtaining support from A&O countries for a Library statement on Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement negotiations.

2013 Activities

Undoubtedly, for A&O countries, the most important upcoming event will be the IFLA Congress in Singapore next year, which is especially exciting for the whole of the Singapore library community. Join us in Singapore on 17-23 August 2013! The RSCAO has also commenced working with Rare Books and Manuscripts section for an off-site session at the National Library of Singapore during 2013 WLIC in Singapore.

Latin America and the Caribbean

2012 Activities

The IFLA/LAC Standing Committee held its midterm meeting from March 20 to 25. During this time, on March 21, the academic seminar "Libraries in the Latin American and the Caribbean Agenda" was celebrated. Invited international delegates included Gerald Leitner, President of EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations), Felipe Martinez, Member of the IFLA Governing Board, Gloria Salmeron Pérez, Director of the National Library of Spain, and delegates from universities of Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. This time, the LAC Standing Committee decided to meet in Medellín, Colombia after the successful experience in the unification and development of a library system and the great impact of that work for the city, the country and the world. The meeting and the seminar were organized by Comfenalco Antioquia in partnership with the Public Library System of Medellín and the LAC Regional Office and the LAC Section.

On 24 and 25 October, IFLA President Ingrid Parent attended the IFRRO World Congress 2012, in Buenos Aires. She also visited Santiago on her way to Buenos Aires. In Santiago, she met with DIBAM (Direction for Libraries, Archives and Museums) and the National Library representatives and other professional colleagues. Her interest in visiting Chile was to have the opportunity to discuss how Chile may become more involved in the work IFLA is doing at WIPO - a matter raised with her at the recent meeting of Conference Of Directors of National Libraries held during the WLIC 2012. This interest by our Chilean colleagues was very welcomed by IFLA, because active involvement by the LAC region is so important for our achieving success with the WIPO legal instrument on library and archives copyright limitations and exceptions. In Argentina, Ingrid Parent met with representatives of the National Library and ABGRA (Graduate Librarians Association of Argentina). She also gave the conference "Reformulating the Access to Information: Libraries in the center of the scene", which took place on October 26.

FESABID, the umbrella organization for library associations in Spain, organized a Building Strong Library Associations workshop in October 2012 for 12 associations from across Spain. The workshop was delivered by Felipe Martinez (Mexico), Governing Board member, LAC Standing Committee member, and BSLA core trainer for the country project in Peru. The workshop was held concurrently with the Spanish book fair, and the Annual LIBER conference.

2013 Activities

Under the theme "Our Digital Futures", the 2013 Presidential Meeting will be celebrated in Mexico, City on March 6 and 7. This conference will have prominent and inspiring speakers to address current issues on access to information for libraries concerning access for research and education, access to enhance reading, access for the cultural memory, and copyright exceptions and limitations to benefit access. Participants will also contribute to the development of the IFLA Trend Report on access to digital information in the global digital environment and information society in which libraries will operate over the next five years, to be launched at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Singapore 17 - 23 August, 2013. This Conference is organized and sponsored by the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the LAC Section; the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) through the Humanities Research Coordination, the Library Science and Information Research Institute and the General Direction for Libraries; the Mexican Librarians Association (AMBAC), and the National College of Graduate Librarians (CNB). Venue: National Autonomous University of Mexico, Auditorium Index MUAC, University City, Mexico.