Science and Technology Libraries Section

Newsletter June 2016

Content

A Message from the Chair, Science and Technology Section
As we are all aware the role of libraries has greatly changed during the past ten to fifteen years across the spectrum, whether a public, special or academic/research library. However, no one are of librarianship has made a greater change and therefore a greater need to adapt to a changing environment than science and technology libraries, whether free standing within a school of medicine, within a governmental agency or a research university.   Thirty years ago the scientists and engineers used the library as a resource to access research published in print journals through print indexes and abstracts. Librarians were appreciated for their collection development knowledge, ability to locate an article needed that wasn't in house, and for their responsibility to insure that the funds were found to pay for journal subscriptions.

During the last twenty years the role of libraries and specifically that of librarians has shifted significantly. No longer is it necessary for researchers to venture to the library to locate the article needed to advance their research, on-line subscriptions and digitized archival collections have negated that. The opportunity for interaction between the librarians and faculty/researchers declined. That is, until it was determined that this new information paradigm required greater, not less, skills in knowing how to retrieve the article necessary for their research. It also became apparent that science and engineering students needed more, not less instruction in the retrieval of research in support of their learning and research. Librarians stepped up and created dynamic information literacy programs tailored to the science and engineering fields often as co-teachers with the disciplinary faculty.

Then about ten years ago a new role for librarians became apparent. As science and engineering researchers moved from bench science to computational science to test theories and models, datasets became the basis of advancing scholarship. Science and engineering researchers found themselves at a loss to identify, store, retrieve and share important datasets. That's where librarians came in. It was apparent that librarians had been remiss in communicating to colleagues throughout their institution the theory and principles of library science – identify, classify, archive and retrieve information, whether it be tangible (print journals and books) or intangible (digital datasets). All are object that can be managed through the principles of library science.

I once had a faculty researcher say to me, "Years ago we would never have thought about bringing a librarian onto a research team, now it is imperative that we have a librarian for their knowledge in order to manage the massive datasets we are creating." My answer was, "Would you really have wanted a librarian working in the lab handling Bunsen burners and Erlenmeyer flasks? No, that

would not have drawn upon their special knowledge, but collaborating on the creation and management of a dataset, that is a different story." He nodded his head. He then responded, "Whatever, we have to have librarians work with us!"

I hope this story helps to convey the great opportunity we have through our work in fields of science and technology. The Science and Technology Library (STL) Section of IFLA is committed to creating a forum to help educate science and technology librarians around the world through research and experience in the field. Please share our story and role with science and technology librarian colleagues who may not know about the STL. The program scheduled for the upcoming World Library and Information Congress 2016 in Columbus, Ohio, USA, will be focused on the present and future role of librarians in the sciences and technology fields. Program details are also in this Newsletter.

James L. Mullins, PhD
Chair, IFLA Science and Technology Library Section

Dean of Libraries & Esther Ellis Norton Professor, Purdue University, USA

IFLA Strategic Plan 2016-2021 Published
Each IFLA section and unit was asked to submit its Action Plan in early autumn 2015. The incorporated work of all sections now address the four pillars or strategic directions of:

- Libraries in Society
- Information and Knowledge
- Cultural Heritage
- Capacity Building

The four Strategic Directions of the Plan will progress through a set of Key Initiatives and Activities, which will be updated every two years. The current Key Initiatives are valid for 2015-2016. Central to the Plan is the vision that affirms that IFLA is the trusted global voice of the library and information community, "empowering and inspiring society by driving access to information, knowledge and culture for all, to support development, learning, creativity and innovation" and the core values that demonstrate IFLA's nature and the work it administers and inspires around the world by promoting "principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression."

This document will guide the governance and activities of IFLA leading the organization under the direction of its new Secretary General, Gerald Leitner. Endorsed by the Governing Board and now available in all seven IFLA languages it can be found at http://www.ifla.org/strategic-plan.

Science & Technology Libraries
What is new and happening in Science & Technology Libraries? IFLA STS wants to know. If your library is creating a new service pathway, introducing something innovative, creating new spaces? What trends do you see influencing the directions your libraries are taking? Are you launching makerspaces, how are you interpreting the "Internet of Things" as IoT is becoming more ubiquitous to life in general? How do you know your communities? How are you assessing for improvements, changes and impact? What stories can you share? Lots of questions and we hope you will provide some answers. We are investigating how to capture your responses and perhaps share them through different channels of social media or via our IFLA webspace. All ideas and responses encouraged.

I had the opportunity to attend another IFLA section's mid-year meeting in Doha, Qatar in late April. The Metropolitan Libraries Section had a study tour and conference that explored staffing and services in public libraries. However, the takeaways were multiple and apply to many library environments. The presentations have been posted and the formal papers will soon be available. Site visits to many kinds of libraries were made including a visit to the construction site of the new Qatar National Library due to open within the year, academic libraries, school libraries, special libraries, museums, conservation centers. In addition a trip to the UNESCO World Heritage site, Al Zubarah Archeological Site was planned).

This is the season of library conferences and we hope that you will share where you have been, what you have seen and learned and allow those who could not join you get a snapshot of your visits.

New Reads and so little time, but so much inspiration to find…… check out the new OA resources: Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship

WLIC 2016 – Columbus, Ohio, US
The STL session theme this year is **The Role of Libraries and Librarians in Scientific and Technological Data Management & Archiving.**

We received 22 proposals and it wasn´t easy to choose, but at last we did and we have six papers to present on Thursday 18th of August (http://www.ifla.org/node/10515)
Annelie Janred was Program chair and was working together with Julia Gelfand and Carol Feltes in the Program group.
This is our program

1. re3data and an Ecosystem of Research Data Repositories

- Michael Witt, Distributed Data Curation Center (D2C2), Purdue University, United States
- Mustapha Mokrane, ICSU World Data System, Japan
- Heinz Pampel, GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Germany
- Frank Scholze, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
- Robert Ulrich, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

2. Resolving the confusion over metadata-creation in digital archives

- Jiban K. Pal, Indian Statistical Institute Library Documentation & Info. Science Division, India

3. Data Management: Knowledge and skills required in research, scientific and technical organisations

- Mary Anne Kennan, School of Information Studies Charles Sturt University, Australia

4. RDM: Exploration and Practices of Academic Libraries

- Nie Hua, Peking University Library, China

5. The Geospatial Data Curation, Management, and Discovery in Academic Libraries

- Nicole Kong, Purdue University Libraries, United States

6. The Role of Libraries and Librarians in Scientific and Technological Data Management & Archiving

- Yan Han, The University of Arizona Libraries, United States

See you in Columbus!

For more information, please contact Annelie Janred, Information officer, STL-SC, annelie.janred@ub.gu.se

Plan Ahead: Satellite Conference in 2017
The Science & Technology Section, in conjunction with the Education & Training Section and the Health & Biosciences Section will co-host a 1.5 day Satellite Conference just prior to the 2017 IFLA WLIC in Wroclaw at the Center for Scientific and Technical Information at the Wroclaw University of Science and Technology. The theme of the satellite conference will be related to "Training and Development for Science, Engineering & Medical Librarians," and will explore how to staff science and medical libraries with appropriately credentialed staff in the dynamically changing library environment. It will focus on successful models and case studies that can address hiring, training, retention and service outcomes for library staff who work in the sciences, engineering and medical subject areas.

Planning is just getting underway. There will be a call in coming months for different kinds of presentations that will explore how to service these special services that are often part of larger academic institutions & libraries, hospitals, government, business and commercial entities. As the role of science librarianship has become more complex with more virtual libraries, embedded models, data management, scientific publishing, clinical & bioinformatics, evidence-based research, and scholarly communications more central to the work of the scientific community, it is increasingly important that science & medical librarians are better prepared to serve this important clientele and understand their needs and collections.

Save the date: August 17-18, 2017 and come to Wroclaw!

For additional information, please contact Julia Gelfand (jgelfand@uci.edu), Secretary, Science & Technology Section