

# NISSAT

NEWSLETTER

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NISSAT Newsletter, published quarterly, is the official organ of NISSAT, and is aimed at disseminating information concerning programmes, activities and achievements of NISSAT as also of the various centres functioning under it. Additionally, it attempts to project major developments in the field of information science at national and international levels.

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## The Jamboree That Was

IFLA-92 the biggest event of the century for the librarians and information scientists in India is over. Organisers are back to their workplace a bit tired yet relaxed. Participants may still be wondering how much wiser they have become by attending the conference and whether all that expenditure on this huge jamboree at public and personal expense was worth its while. All said and done, it did not lack fun and frolic. It was an opportunity and a place for seeing new faces and establishing contacts with scope for romantic overtures which were not possible otherwise.

As is usually the case the process of organisation of IFLA-92 was not free from in-fighting and show of lung power marked by squabbles of various hues and temperatures. The frequency and intensity of eruptions had often cast a shadow of doubt whether we would make it to the end. And we did make it because sense prevailed and individual interests levelled as the D-day approached. LIS professionals in India do really deserve a pat on the back.

Rightly or wrongly IFLA activities are often branded as ethno-centric. Without debating the issue from either angle, we need to prognosticate on the possible future development for IFLA, and how the developing countries could benefit from its activities. Some answers may be found in the contents of this issue.

Only a tiny fraction of Indian LIS community could participate in the event mainly due to financial reasons. It is not possible to simulate the event for a wider audience, nevertheless one could make a presentation on the event that is not scholarly (as many such options already exist), or too popular as the conference has received enough attention from the media already.

In spite of lack of experience in the handling of such information, NISSAT Newsletter has attempted a documentation of the goings on inside and outside of this mammoth conference. This endeavour is dedicated to all those librarians and information scientists in India who could not make it to the event.

With the publication of this issue we come to the end of this eventful year. On behalf of my colleagues in NISSAT and on my own behalf, we wish all our readers and patrons a very

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

— A. Lahiri

# NISSAT

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**IFLA**

**58th General**

**Conference, New Delhi**

**An International**

**Festival**

**for Librarians**

**in India**

## Overview

It was indeed a great occasion which brought together librarians and information scientists from over 80 countries—developed and not so developed. The venue: New Delhi and the Event: 58th General Conference of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions which met for the first time in India during 30 August-5 September 1992.

The occasion also marked the celebration of another great event—the Birth Centenary year of the doyen of library science, S.R. Ranganathan.

The focus of attention of 1324 delegates (398 from India) was the theme, 'Library and Information Policy Perspectives.' Being both relevant and topical, it enthused a wide spectrum of professionals.

The Indian Library Association (ILA) played host to the grand international assembly backed by a 23-member Organizing Committee of experts drawn from various national organisations. The ~~committee~~ was led by Mr. Girja Kumar (Chairman) and Mr. Subhash C. Biswas (Secretary-General).

### inauguration

inaugurating the conference on 30 August 1992, Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh said that information and communication technologies had a vital role to play in linking libraries, information centres and databases through local, national and international networking. India had already made progress in establishing these multi-level linkages using various available networks ~~but~~ much remained to be done. To help upgrade library manpower, the Government of India ~~through~~ its National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) programme and the University Grants Commission had taken major training and orientation measures in the field of library modernisation.

Referring to the theme of the conference—Library and Information Policy Perspectives—Shri Arjun Singh said it had a special significance for India as the country was in the midst of implementing a report on the national policy on

libraries and information systems. This envisaged a systematic development of the infrastructure of libraries to integrate literacy and educational programmes and activities with the existing library and information systems at all levels.

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*To help upgrade library manpower, the Govt. of India through its National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) Programme and the University Grants Commission had taken major training and orientation measures in the field of library modernisation.*

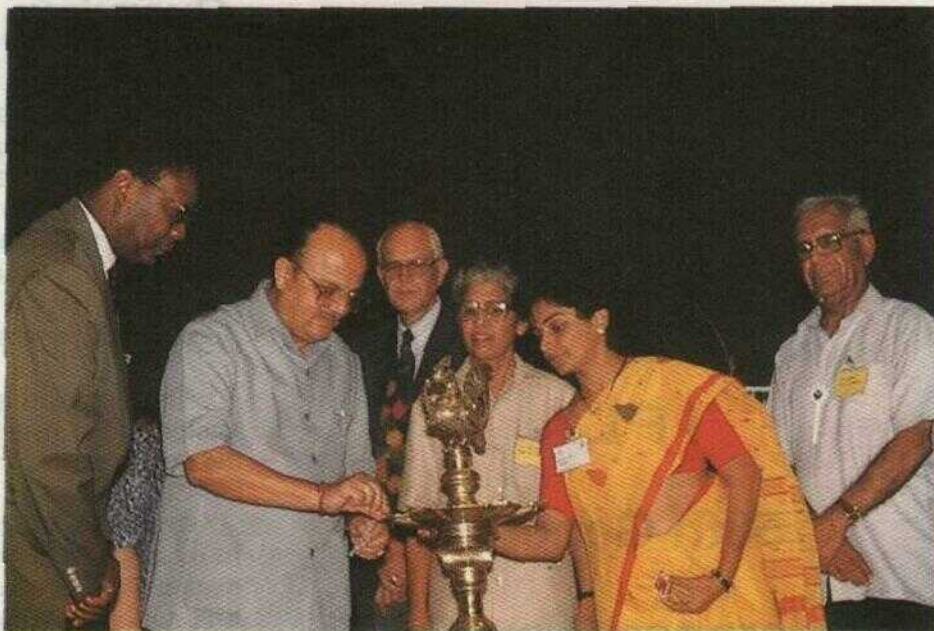
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#### **Prof Robert Wedgeworth, IFLA President**

Referring to S.R. Ranganathan whose birth centenary the conference was also celebrating, Prof Wedgeworth said "Ranganathan broadened our total vision of librarianship that helps to sustain us as we address the problems of our times". He dwelt on some of the global problems like economic recession, weak demand for finished products and their impact on the reduction in funding libraries. But beyond the effect of economic recession, said Prof Wedgeworth, some attribute the current difficulties in libraries in attracting greater support to the image and status of librarians. We can sharpen our focus on the important contributions libraries can make in support of education and in support of productivity.

He referred to Ranganathan's early experiments in extending library facilities to rural India where the principle of self-help was combined with employment of appropriate technology taking care of local resources and use of folk media. These are relevant even today.

Mr Girja Kumar, Chairman, Organising Committee for IFLA described the assembly of



**Lighting the traditional lamp to mark the Inauguration of the IFLA 58th General Conference in New Delhi on 30 August 1992 is India's Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh**

delegates from as many as 81 countries as the largest ever for the library community of India.

He pleaded for the creation of Ranganathan Bhavan in which the various streams of librarianship could join in a *sangam* and in support of empowering individuals to be able to improve the quality of their lives. It is time that we decide whether we wish to manage service stations on the super-highways of information or become traffic engineers managing information flows to address priority needs of our respective societies.

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*It is time that we decide whether we wish to manage service stations on the super-highways of information or become traffic engineers managing information flows to address priority needs of our respective societies.*

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#### **Commemorative Stamp**

The Posts and *Telegraphs* Department of the Govt. of India issued a four colour Commemorative Stamp of Re.1 denomination on the occasion. The stamp was released by the Human Resource

Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh as Mr Ojha, Chief Postal Manager, New Delhi presented the album to the Minister.

Mr Abdul Aziz on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, Dr R.K. Peril, Director-General, National Archives of India on behalf of the International Council of Archives and Mr C.P. Vashishth, President, ILA also spoke on the occasion and welcomed the delegates.

### Plenary Session

The session which followed the inaugural function was addressed by Dr. Eric de Grolier of the Conseil International des sciences Sociales, Paris on behalf of UNESCO. He spoke on the theme "Library and Information Policy Perspectives and Ranganathan's Heritage". Dr de Grolier maintained that Ranganathan was deeply nationalist, that is to say that his priority was to develop and modernize libraries and information services in his own country, India. However he was also extremely active internationally at UNESCO, FID, IFLA and the influence of his ideas extended much further outside the limits of the Indian Sub-continent.

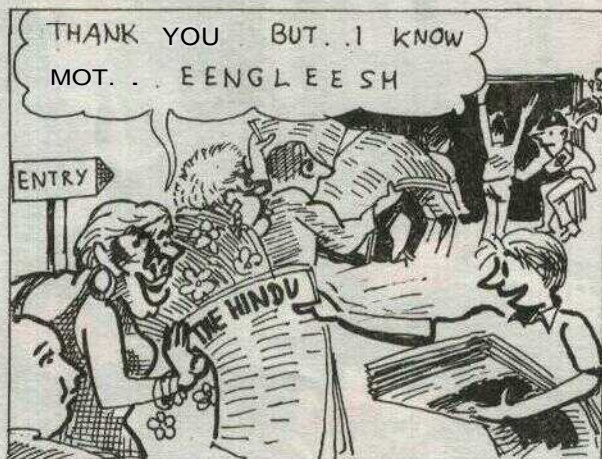
*Twenty years after his death what remains valid in the Ranganathan legacy for librarians is an inspiration and the Indian term "guru" reflecting his charismatic personality. He assuredly*

*deserves a place of honour among the creators of library science and information science which at the verge of the 21st century must become global.*

Dr de Grolier went on to elaborate on the contributions of Ranganathan in different spheres—in distilling the laws of library science in designing of national library systems, in adult education programme, in recognition of users and their needs in recognising the immense possibilities of the 'new technologies', in the training of professional personnel and development of professional literature, and inevitably in the field of classification. Concluding, Dr de Grolier observed "twenty years after his death, what remains valid in the Ranganathan's legacy for librarians is an inspiration and the Indian term *guru* reflecting his charismatic personality. Thus he assuredly deserves a place of honour among the creators of library science and information science which at the verge of the 21st century must become global."

### Exhibition on Books and Information Technology

IFLA President Prof. Robert Wedgeworth and Mr Rajesh Pilot, Minister of State for Communications, inaugurated the two sections of the International Exhibit organised as a part of the conference. The Exhibit brought under one roof exhibits on information packaging, technology



### Attention to Detail

dissemination and media knowledge in every possible format—books in printed and electronic form and information technology, computer hardware and software, DTP systems, photocopying machines, etc. Displayed by 63 well-known and established entrepreneurs, the Exhibits provided an opportunity to the delegates to have a glimpse of [the latest technologies, innovations and trends. Among the exhibitors were eminent publishers from India and abroad, libraries and information systems and networks. The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), India put up an impressive display of its multifarious activities—library networks, information services operated through its nationwide chain of information centres, its quarterly; *NISSAT Newsletter*, and other publications.

Among the other prominent exhibitors were the American Centre Library, Library of Congress, British Council Division of the British High Commission in India, IFLA HQ, Informatics India, ICSSR, DESIDOC, INSDOC, NCERT, National Library, Calcutta, OCLC and Swets and Zeillinger, Holland. Though the Exhibit was not a big draw, visitors in fairly large number could be seen going round the stalls.



**Commemorative Stamp released by Shri Arjun Singh at the Inaugural session to mark the Birth Centenary of S.R. Ranganathan celebrated by IFLA**



**Minister Arjun Sfngh (centre) with ILFA President Robert Wedgeworth (left) and Paul Nauta (right) at a reception hosted by the Minister**

## Special Publications

Several periodical publications celebrated the Ranganathan Centenary by bringing out special issues on the occasion. These included :

Libri special number

The Hindu Speaks

University News

Library Science with slant to Documentation and Information Studies

International Classification

ILA Newsletter

DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology

Indian Book Industry

*NISSAT Newsletter* featured the event on its cover throughout the year and devoted an entire issue to the conference proceedings.

## Seminars and Workshops

The IFLA programme included several Pre-Conference Seminars, Divisions and Round Tables. Notable among these were; Seminar on the Status, Reputation and Image of the Library and Information Profession; Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) Workshop on Rural Resource Centres and Indo-US Conference of Library and Information Science Professionals.

Over 125 papers were delivered at the IFLA conference, seminars and workshops. Nine booklets (0-8) carried 86 papers in printed form.

At Session I on 31 August, the following five papers were presented: National Information Policy and the Third World Countries; Manpower Preparation for Development and Implementation of Information Policies; Impact of Public Libraries on the Information Requirements of the Community; Managing University Libraries in Southern Africa in the 1990s: Perception of Challenges and Solutions; and Library Information Services for Disabled Individuals.

Session II discussed the following five contributed papers : Introducing CD-ROM in libraries and documentation centres in developing countries: Impacts for improving services (Marc Keylard, Netherlands); Information policies and government guidance in Nigeria: What hope for

rural communities (L.I. Ibraheem, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria); Community information centres in the developing countries with special reference to India (V. Venkatappaiah, ILA and T.V. Chandra, Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad, India); Information system: the logic of inquiry (Peter G. Underwood, University of Cape Town, South Africa); Thailand's experience in strengthening information infrastructure (K. Choo Chuay, Dept. of Non-formal Education, Bangkok).

There were six poster sessions on topics which included Programme of applied research (Emelio Setien, Cuba); Role of language planning in a library and information policy for a new nation (Mary Nassimbeni, Cape Town University, South Africa); Computer viruses: An Overview; Copyrights (Nancy John, University of Illinois, Chicago); New technologies and the end-user perspective (Bruce Royan, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland).

## Special Libraries Division

Under this Division, one of the eight IFLA Divisions, organised sections on Government Libraries, Geography and Map Libraries, and Science and Technology Libraries. The last section featured three contributed papers, namely, Improving access to Scientific Literature in Developing Countries—A UNESCO Programme Review; Access to Scientific and Technical Information (Dan Stoica, Romania); and Initiatives to Facilitate Access to Science and Technology. This paper the first to be presented by the author Dr Abhijit Lahiri, comprehensively dealt with creation of a modern information market in India requiring a shift from conventional value systems and traditional practices. The author advocated adoption of a totally commercial approach in all the activities. The present dominant role of the government as the promoter and financier of the information activities ought to decline, the author noted. The paper evoked great interest and was followed by animated discussion.

## Closing Session

The week-long conference came to a close in the afternoon of 4 September. It was a solemn and dignified occasion marked by appreciative references by the IFLA President to the role played by IFLA officials and the Indian Organising

## ***How's That***

The IFLA Conference coincided with *British Centenary of S.R. Ranganathan—Concept News*

\* \* \* \*

I have not seen the inside of any meeting or session barring the inaugural and closing functions. I have come here to make friends—IFLA delegate (USA)

\* \* \* \*

The Reception and Registration counters here are the most efficient I have ever seen at IFLA.  
*John Feathers, U.K. Delegate*

\* \* \* \*

A delegate from one Middle East country with three equally beautiful wives was at a loss at the registration counter because he could declare only one as the 'Accompanying Person' as per registration rules

Committee for the conference. It also featured the Report on the Pre-session Seminar on Image Status and Reputation of the Library and Information Profession by Mr A.O. Banjo, Member of the Professional Board held in New Delhi during 24-28 August 1992.

### **IFLA'92 Award Winners**

#### *Fellows*

Craig Ross Fairley, Canada

Georgetta Clinca, Romania

Monia Gurrero, Mexico

Wendy Smith, Australia

#### *Study Grant*

Neera Shani, India

#### *Hans Peter Geh Grant for Conference Participation*

Jakov Shrajberg, Russia

#### *Shawky Salem, FID and IFLA Grant*

Tarek Ahmed Asaker, Egypt

Dheya Abdul Quader Al Jassem, Kuwait

#### *AIT Fellowships*

Xiaoying Dong, China

Phoummasak Sousada, Laos

Mohammed Ghuiam, Bangladesh

Karina Sereva, Papua New Guinea

The most important criterion for their selection was their potential as future leaders in their national and regional library associations. At the end of the seminar, ten resolutions were adopted, aimed at the overall improvement of library and information services and the enhancement of the image, status and reputation of the profession.

David Clements, Chairman of the Professional Board, then briefly reviewed the work of the PB in preparation for the Delhi Conference. The PB had accepted nine papers, to be delivered in two sessions. The poster sessions had six presentations, and the Indian Organizing Committee had provided them with an excellent location in the



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## SNIPPETS

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exhibition area. He announced that the professional resolutions submitted during the conference would be dealt with by the PB in its November meeting. The 1991 resolutions had, for the most part, been dealt with in full, and these would be published in *IFLA Journal*. Finally, although the PB regretted the decision not to offer Russian interpretation during the open sessions, it was gratified that Russian would be offered during the Barcelona Council and General Conference, 1993.

Mr. Robert Stueart, Member of the Executive Board, reported on one of the most important awards that IFLA has ever administered: the Robert Vesper IFLA Fellows award, sponsored by the Council on Library Resources, as a tribute to Robert Vosper, Honorary IFLA Fellow. The awards were given on a competitive basis to colleagues to undertake research in one of the areas of the Core Programmes. This year the Jury had selected four Fellows: 1) Craig Ross Fairley (Canada) who would be studying the impact of electronic data exchange on libraries; 2) Ms Georgetta Clinca (Romania), who would study the functioning of CIP; 3) Ms Monica Guerrero (Mexico), who would study interlending policies and restrictions on availability; and 4) Ms Wendy Smith (Australia), who would develop a set of training modules in preservation management and would conduct trials in the Asia and Oceania region.

Following the 1991 IFLA Conference in Moscow, Hans-Peter Geh, IFLA's President from 1985 to 1991, donated DEM 20,000 to IFLA, the interest from which should be used to sponsor annually a librarian from the geographic region previously called the Soviet Union, including the Baltic States, to attend an IFLA Seminar or Conference in Germany or elsewhere for becoming acquainted with new international developments in the field of information. Six applications were received for the *Hans-Peter Geh Grant for Conference Participation*, and the Jury awarded the Grant for 1992 to Jakov Shraiberg (Russia) who will attend an international conference on "Information Policy as Cultural Policy" in Bonn in October 1992.

The Shawky Salem, FID and IFLA Grant is established for the training of Arab specialists in library and information sciences. The objective of the yearly grant is to enable an expert in library and information science, who is a national of an

### Venue

The Conference was inaugurated in the prestigious Siri Fort Auditorium while the business sessions were arranged in Hotel Taj Palace. The environment in the auditorium was far from comfortable, thanks to poor airconditioning. The special issue of the *Hindu* handed out to the invitees came in handy to sweat it out through the function. Organisers also did not pay any attention to arrange for tea/coffee and other refreshments at the venue: even drinking water was not available. This surely was a serious lapse especially as the invitees were expected to stay there all afternoon and evening from 2 to 9 PM.

\* \* \* \*

It is said that the prevailing hot and humid atmospheric conditions had put a tremendous load on the airconditioning system, making the place awfully inhospitable. Poor power supply also did not allow proper functioning of the system. The basement exhibition hall presented the worst working condition. Many interested viewers did not venture there, while many exhibitors ran away from their post due to the oppressive heat. Humidity level was high and water condensation near the airconditioning ducts spoiled some exhibits. One of the exhibitors even demanded compensation for damages, it is learnt.

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The prestigious Kamani Auditorium where the cultural programme was held was packed beyond capacity. There were some outbursts of temper and intimidation of volunteers by the delegates. Even the photographers could not gain entry due to overcrowding.

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### Heady Experience: Hot and Chilly Thriller

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To top it all, the organisers and the Hotel authorities (we do not know who should take the cake) decided to arrange the lunch in the lawns adjoining the Hotel. The delegates had to contend with the bright sunshine (temperature close to 40°C. and max. RH upward of 80%) outside and the heat of chillies inside to do justice to the free lunch served. Quite a heady experience! Bewildered, many guests walked out calling it all insane!

All this goes to show that facilities in New Delhi are not good enough to organise big conferences with a large number of parallel sessions in progress.

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## What is IFLA?

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IFLA—The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions aims at promoting international cooperation, discussion and research in all fields of library activity. It was founded in 1927 and has members in 135 countries. It aspires to speak with authority as the global voice of library profession, it has consultative status 'A' (the highest classification) with UNESCO and is closely connected with many international governmental and non-governmental organisations and its counterparts in documentation (FID) and archival (ICA) worlds.

Association members in any country together pay an annual fee which is nationally determined (0.1% of a country's contribution to UNESCO), the minimum being 600 NLG (Dutch guilders). The voting members are Association Members and institutional Members. Non-voting members are called Affiliates.

IFLA steering bodies are the Executive Board which looks after the general management, and the Profession Board which coordinates and directs professional work. The IFLA President is chief of the Executive Board.

IFLA works through tv/o kinds of units : the professional groups, 32 Sections and 12 Round Tables grouped together in 9 Divisions) and the core programmes. The core programmes are : UAP (Universal Availability of Publications), UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC), PAC (Preservation and Conservation), UDT (Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications), ALP (Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World).

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Tel : 66-2-2712084.

Arab country, to be trained in an aspect of modern technology in library or information science in one or more western countries. The Minister of Higher Education in Kuwait also agreed to cover the costs each year for a Kuwaiti trainee, so the Jury, after reviewing 22 applications from 8 countries was able to award two Grants: Tarek Ahmed Asaker (Egypt), who will study parliamentary information systems and Ms Dheya Abdul Qader Al Jassem (Kuwait) who will study modern technology in library and information systems.

Ms Birgitta Bergdahi announced the winners of the A.I.T. Fellowships for professionals to attend a three-months' course in information technology at the Asian Institute of Technology. From more than 100 applications, the Jury selected four winners: Ms Xiaoying Dong (China), Ms Phoummasak Sousada (Laos), Mohammad Ghulam of Bangladesh and Karina Sereva of Papua New Guinea.

Invitations to future IFLA Conferences were extended by Lluís Bagunya for Barcelona 1993 and by Ms Marta Terry for Havana 1994.

In the final words from the Indian Organizing Committee, Subhas Biswas began by introducing and thanking the members of the IOC who were seated at the platform: Mr Kumar, Mr Vashishth, Mr Kashyap and Ms Anand. He extended the thanks of the IOC to the government of India, to the many Indian libraries and organizations, and to the exhibitors, who had contributed much to the success of the conference. On behalf of IFLA, Prof. Wedgeworth then presented the Indian Organising Committee with the IFLA Medal, Mr Biswas accepting on their behalf.

Prof. Wedgeworth continued IFLA's vote of thanks by acknowledging the generosity of the Government of India, particularly the Minister of Human Resources Development, Mr Arjunt Singh.

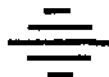
Mr Nauta stated that he would not bid farewell to IFLA, because it would be possible for *him* to attend future IFLA Conferences and ID stay in contact with his IFLA friends. He thanked those with whom he had cooperated during his 5-year tenure as Secretary-General and wished the President of IFLA, Robert Wedgeworth, and his successor, Leo Voogt, much success in developing future IFLA actions and activities.

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## Inaugural Hassles

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Dignitaries seated at the dais did not seem to know the agenda of the Inaugural Function. This appeared to be so at least to the audience. Or else why the Master of Ceremonies should have been fumbling on what to do next.



There was no interval between the inauguration ceremonies and the plenary session. People in the audience became restive as speaker after speaker went on in monotone in the hot and stuffy auditorium. The Indian speakers were **particularly** unintelligible. The only interesting interlude was when the President IFLA got confused between IFLA and ALA (American Library Association).



No fluids were available to wash down the boredom either. The most cruel joke was when someone announced that there was a water fountain somewhere round the corner outside the auditorium. While many people in the audience took flight from the real world (some with lot of noise) the poor guests seated at the dais demonstrated immense muscular restraint not to make their predicament too obvious. And this poor correspondent kept wondering and he still is as to when those beautiful flower bouquets would be presented to the dignitaries.

The President announced that the 59th IFLA would be hosted by Spain in Barcelona 1993 and the 60th by Cuba. After closing **remarks** from the Chairman and Secretary-General of the Indian Organizing Committee the President, IFLA proposed a hearty and touching vote of thanks.



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## Food for Thought

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Few will disagree that there is nothing like a free lunch, especially when it is 5-star. But this is not true in all cases. IFLA'92 provided not only full fledged buffet lunch but also tea/coffee with snacks twice a day, and free sightseeing and shopping jaunts to the delegates all gratuitous, on the House. Such lavish hospitality, it must be said, is more common in poor countries like India which can ill afford such five star culture. In developed countries one has to look around for slot machines! Should we... Should we not?

## ***Interview with IFLA President Robert Wedgeworth***

### **IFLA in Relation to developing countries**

A frequent question asked from me is what do I propose to do for them? Important thing for IFLA is to have the opportunity to find out from its members particularly, the developing countries like India about their needs. IFLA is not a company, it is an Association. **Each** member has the same category and the same vote as any other member. One of the obligations of membership is to define what the organisation should do for its members. Each member in turn has to define his information needs in a way these influence organisation's functioning. It is, therefore, for the regular members and the potential members in the developing countries to define their information needs and ways that could influence IFLA, rather than IFLA deciding what their information needs should be. On my part, I wish IFLA to become less paternalistic.

THE PRESIDENT

SPEAKS

### **Whether Conference Is the right kind of Instrument?**

I think the Conference is one of the most effective instruments. The associations have limited ways of influencing behaviour and performance. It is the highest form of communication for most of the associations, journals and the news world. Conferences bring the members together. There are people who become aware of the importance of library and information service through the newspapers. We are able to call attention of the Government authorities or civil bodies or people who are able to financially help with funds, build new libraries or endow professorship. We are able to reach these people through the kind of visibility the conferences create on the library and information services.

### **Is IFLA doing enough for the developing countries?**

It is never enough but the question is that we have only one conference a year. We had to manoeuvre IFLA to meet outside Europe and North America, and **that** is how **IFLA during** the past ten years has been able to meet in

developing countries, because of the strength of members in these geographical areas. If you ask the members of IFLA from the developed countries about their experience of these conferences, they would say that IFLA has never been the same since it started going out to developing countries. IFLA has gained experience of the library world in East Africa, Asia and now the vast Indian Subcontinent. The members from the developed countries did not have direct contact with the people from developing countries who had also probably not appeared in competition with the people from the more established countries.

All this contributes to widening the IFLA world and helps it in coming closer to serve the needs that you point to. Certainly IFLA's contribution may not be enough. But is UNESCO doing enough or UN doing enough? What matters is the kind of momentum you have been able to impart in meeting the needs in this context.

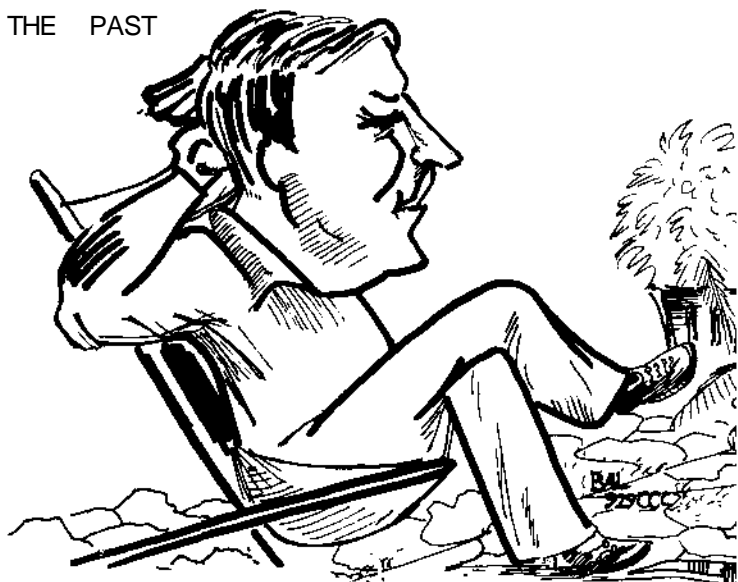
You have a mandatory contribution to IFLA. Voting is not so important. Voting has not the same sort of significance in a non-government association as it has in a government body, because you do not have a 'raw display of politics' in educational and cultural associations. It is the participation, that is really important and what we are aiming at. By moving the conference outside Western Europe and North America, we dramatically increased the participation.

The members normally participate in an association by writing papers and doing things from a distance. In the association, the members may not have met Dr. S.R. Ranganathan but they are influenced by his ideas because of the opportunities the association provides to teach the future generation of students who may have no knowledge and details of librarians and librarianship in India and about the ideas of Dr. Ranganathan.

**Are library associations strong enough to influence decisions?**

At one time the American Library Association was not a strong association as it is today. In its early days, the President ALA carried his portfolio in his pocket. This kind of associations have to develop over the years. In the developing world what we have to do is to get them understand that even a small movement of professionals for

THE PAST



I have done my bit—Hans Peter Geh,  
Past President

THE PRESENT



IFLA is not what I would like it to be — Robert Wedgeworth

attending a conference like this can influence important things to happen. This is the encouragement and support what IFLA can gather for them.

### Why ALP office at Uppsala?

IFLA had an idea stimulated principally by one of its former Secretaries General. She felt that it is important for IFLA to have an instrument that will deliver its programmes more practically to the members of the developing countries. This was just an idea until Scandinavian countries came forward to be of assistance to the developing countries. Scandinavian countries were asked to conceive the operation of this core programme and provide the initial funding for organising the secretariat. I don't say that since the money is being used by the President, and the Secretariat, the programme will be getting through overnight. There is a long list of projects that are directly going into the developing countries. Funds are flowing in and out of them because of the seed money put by the Scandinavian countries. You can't just create a programme overnight. There has to be a programme and somebody has to sit down to work out that programme and it is to be finally supported. So you can't have the objection on the Scandinavian countries that they have any motive other than serving the developing countries.

In my local association, some members were expressing similar sentiments about the organisation and its response to its needs and the needs of the population. We created our own caucus within the association and out of that produced President of the association, and the Executive Director. We were able to talk among ourselves and generate interest.. Certainty we had to pursue people to vote for us and listen to us.

### **IFLA Is not what it used to be.**

IFLA is not what I would like it to be. IFLA has a long way to go in the future. How it gets in the direction you would probably agree is, how meetings like this, stimulate and energise members to make proposals for change in the election system and to have proposals for change  
14 in the election system and to have confidence that they can make a difference in IFLA with one person writing a paper that gets picked up by the major journals for setting the future direction. What

I am concerned about is not to use these difficulties as an excuse to do nothing.

### Larger Conferences vs Smaller Conferences

A larger conference attracts attention in a way smaller conference can never accomplish. ALA or IFLA can bring in authors, publishers and other people that the Texas Library Association could never attract. On the other hand ALA or IFLA can never have the local connection to the fabric of the institutions or the societies that the smaller associations have. So my answer is, we have to have both. We have to have the big conferences for connection to the broader world to give it visibility, to bring the well known writers into the conference to generate excitement, but also to have the smaller meetings that really get lot of the basic ideas. In this case, since many of the smaller associations in the developing world are awake in their early stages of developing into a world-wide organisation. IFLA is going to dominate and these local associations through their contact with the IFLA will begin to strengthen and will be able to have those smaller meetings.

Regional chapters are important for international organisations to have strong regional organisations. We need strong regional organisations to come up here and establish the basis that later on would develop into a strong organisation that would organise regional meetings every other year and help people to travel across the world to attend IFLA meetings.

### Strategy for the future

That we need something to happen in between this meeting in 1992 and the next time IFLA comes back to Asia, I don't disagree with that, but I am also realistic in recognising that we don't have the infrastructure to be able to carry on in this region now, that I would like to see as developed. That is the reason these new regional offices are just like the little birds I would like to see encouraged, flower and I think that is the important strategy for IFLA for the future. I hope we addressed the principal questions and we look forward to have a chance and for that you don't have to wait until the next IFLA conference in India. You can still be in touch with us about any problem relating to India and the Asian region.

**D**

# IFLA

# And

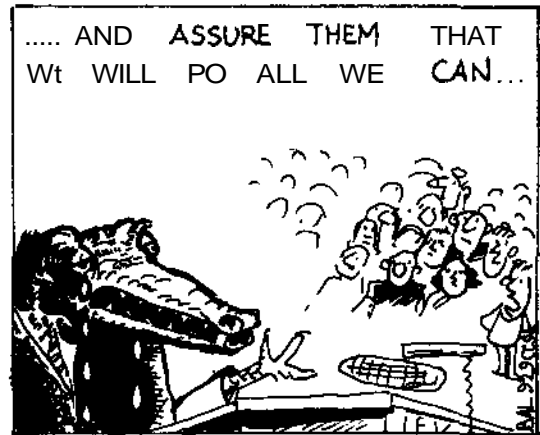
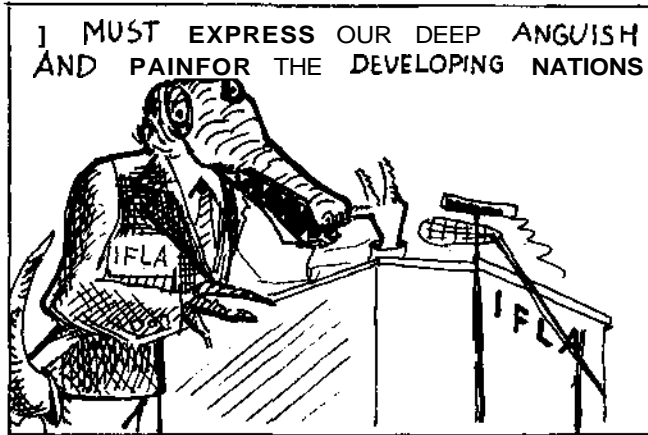
  

# The Third World

IFLA—the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions is a body which aspires to speak with authority as global voice of the library profession. Since its formation in 1927, its membership has increased from 15 countries, to 135 countries, out of which 85 belong to the Third World. IFLA claims to promote international cooperation, discussion and research in all fields of library activity. Universality, comprehensiveness and representative status are the aims which give direction to its structure as well as its professional programmes.

For many years IFLA acted as librarians' club with the affluent western countries dominating the scene. The Third World countries did not receive due attention from IFLA. Although IFLA started a special core programme called Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP) in 1984, it came into operation only in 1991. Strangely enough, the operating centre for this programme is located in Sweden, a **developed** country far away from Third World countries. The experts deputed to work on the projects are also mostly from the developed countries who cannot be well versed with the background and problems of the developing countries. So far IFLA has held its General Conference in the Third World only four times, including the present one at New Delhi. The high delegation fee and the huge expenditure involved in organising such conferences discourage the Third World countries from participating in large numbers. Entry into the IFLA Executive Board is by election, which also does not provide encouraging prospects for the developing countries because of the differential voting power of each member country, determined on the basis of its financial contribution to IFLA. Thus, whereas a developed country like USA, UK or Japan has 28 votes, a developing country like India has only seven. It is, therefore, hardly possible for the developing countries, in the present circumstances to influence policies and affect change in its structure.

*NISSAT Newsletter* team interviewed some leading functionaries, of IFLA, the present and the past ones and some of the delegates to elicit their views on the subject *Excerpts*:



### Noblesse Oblige

#### Mr D.E.K. Wijasuriya

A former Vice-President of IFLA who represented the Third World, is critical about the way IFLA is functioning. He feels that IFLA should meet frequently in the Third World countries but it cannot, due to the huge expenditure involved in organising such a conference which these countries can hardly afford. Moreover in a large conference, like the present one the Third World countries lose focus. IFLA should try to meet in particular regions of the world so that these regions will provide a forum on a continuing basis. IFLA by and large is remote and even with ALP programme has little impact on the Third World. The ALP programme was publicly announced in 1984 at Nairobi but till 1991 it remained a non-starter. The focal centre for ALP programme is located at Uppsala University in Sweden which is at the other end of the world\*. Moreover, whatever funds are made available for this programme, most of these may be spent to maintain that centre. IFLA's impact on the developing countries is still very weak in term of library workmanship. IFLA which expresses so much concern for the Third World, expects them to pay for the expenses for organising IFLA conferences in their countries, which they cannot afford. IFLA should certainly meet in the Third World countries but on the principle that 50% of the cost required for this purpose is under-written. Mr **Wijasuriya** feels that the representatives from the Third World should be more bold and **aggressive** and not merely accommodating in putting **forth** the views and interests of these countries. Librarians are a depressed professional category in comparison to other

professionals like medical doctors, scientists, lawyers, teachers and yet IFLA has not focussed adequate attention on them.

#### Prof. P.B. Hangla

Prof. P.B. Mangla of the University of Delhi who succeeded Mr Wijasuriya, as Vice-President (1985-1991) commented that it was his effort to impress upon the Board that IFLA should play a dominant and more helpful role towards the Third World countries. The ALP programme took 4-5 years to get a concrete shape. As Special Adviser to the Asia and Oceania Regional Standing Committee, he feels there should be projects dealing with problems for the developing world in areas such as University Library and Public Library services as this is one of the thrust areas in the context of literacy. A very important component of the library and information science educational programmes is that these should be oriented to cover the type of people required for rural services. Prof. Mangla is emphatic about IFLA's interest in the development of libraries and librarians in the Third World. It is also for the people from those countries to take more interest in IFLA for active participation. It took him 20 years to plan for entry into IFLA Executive Board and on the expiry of his term in 1991, there was no nomination from India, which reflects lack of concern on our part. Some of his colleagues may be branding him soft or of accommodating nature but this does not mean that he did not take up important issues forcefully enough. He feels that there should be an organised system or forum where such matters could be discussed, in his



opinion, IFLA should hold its conference every alternate year and coordinate it with the FID meetings.

**Prof. Tony Evans, Loughborough University, UK**

Prof. Evans has been Consultant on some of the projects in the Third World countries, namely, Lithuania and Mexico. He felt that there had been a deliberate attempt on the part of IFLA to get the regional areas come up and that's how, in fact it came to South East Asia. IFLA is handicapped partly due to inadequate funding. It has no central members. There is no specific post in the Executive Board reserved for the Third World countries. If a good candidate from the Third World countries is put up for election, he has good chances to win. Although the membership (the voting power) is related to the level of payments that a country makes to IFLA, there is no bias towards the Third World countries.

**Prof. Hans-Peter Geh**

Former President IFLA (1985-1991) and now Director Wimtembergische Landes Bibliothek, Stuttgart, Germany, Prof. Geh agreed that during the period 1950-1970, IFLA was some kind of a discussion club of prestigious European and Americans librarians. There has been a lot of change since then. At present two-third of the IFLA members are from the developing countries. During the period of his presidency, the ALP programme was incorporated. IFLA is very much concerned about the developments in the developing countries. These countries have to bring their problems to us and also advise us how these could be solved. The ALP programme is being supported by the Swedish librarians and the Swedish Govt. is taking up projects in all aspects of librarianship. The IFLA Professional Board has one Division especially dedicated to the Third World and it is represented in the Professional and the Executive Boards. A seminar is being organised in Nairobi on preservation and conservation problems. Each country has its own specific problems. In the IFLA conference held at Nairobi, the Vice President at the opening session said that the librarian in his country should be a social worker because 70% of the population in the rural areas was illiterate. He assured that a lot has been done but he was quite convinced that much more has to be done. IFLA believes that the basic information should be free of charge and on

this it had a conference in 1987. They passed a resolution that access to books and information should be free of charge and those who can afford should pay for those who cannot afford the possibility of access to library information. Some ways and means could be found for the developing countries to do things much cheaper. But you cant have the conference fee of \$100 in one year and \$300 or \$400 the following years, some guidelines have to be there. One cannot blame IFLA of bureaucracy. All big organisations are bureaucratic. IFLA has one office at Bangkok for Asia and Oceania and another at Saopaulo for Latin America. There are focal points in the different regions with close cooperation. Prof. Geh did not favour regionalisation.

**Prof. Robert Wedgeworth, President IFLA**

Prof. Wedgeworth would like IFLA to become less paternalistic. Instead of members asking IFLA to do something for them, they should define their information needs and suggest solution. A conference is one of the most effective instruments for influencing behaviour and performance. It creates visibility on the library and information services besides bringing the members together. IFLA has never been the same since it started going out to the developing countries. It has helped in widening the IFLA world. IFLA's contributions may not be enough, but is UNESCO or the UN doing enough? What matters is the kind of momentum you have been able to impart in meeting the needs. Voting has not the same



**Prof. Tony Evans (Loughborough University UK) In conversation with Dr A. Lahlrl, Jt Adviser, NISSAT**

significance in a non-government association as it has in a government body, because you do not have to make a 'raw display of politics' in educational and cultural associations. It is the participation that is really important and which IFLA is aiming at. By moving the conference outside North America and Western Europe, participation has increased dramatically. Sometime back IFLA had an idea to have an instrument that will deliver its programmes more practically to members of the developing countries. The Scandinavian countries came forward to be of assistance. They were asked to conceive the operation of this core programme (ALP) and provide initial funding which they did. This is how the office for ALP was located at Uppsala University, Sweden. The Scandinavian countries have no motive other than serving the developing countries. On his part, Prof. Wedgeworth was hopeful of seeing some of these developing countries, really developed, the next time IFLA came to hold its conference in the region.

(Ms) Mette Stockmarr, Chief Librarian, The Royal Danish School of Educational Studies (Denmark)

India being a developing country needs to use its resources to meet the basic needs of its people, like food, clothing, shelter, education. Books are very important necessity of life but on an empty stomach they are useless. A country like Somalia cannot think of information networking when its population is dying of hunger.

(Ms) Carolyn Ahearn (USA)

Can India -afford to spend so much on technology when its masses still sleep on the footpath empty stomach? Any service can be beneficial if it helps the masses and not just the minority,

(Ms) Llla Khwaounjoo (Nepal)

IFLA Conference cannot be held in the smaller developing countries unless they arrange funds from somewhere. But the need of IFLA is more for the Third World countries.

18 Mr S.B. Thakur (Nepal)

IFLA Conference is useful but its delegation



(Ms) Llla Khwaounjoo, Nepal: The need of IFLA Is more for the Third World countries

fee of Rs. 3000/- is too high for the developing countries. It should be about Rs. 500/-

Mr **Sadiq** All Khan (Pakistan)

It would be better to sub-divide IFLA into regional groups and representatives of these groups should go to IFLA Conference.

(Ms) Katemeh Rahadoust (Iran)

Regional Conferences are useful but are no substitute for the IFLA Conference.

Mr Dang Ngoc Dinh (Vietnam)

Vietnam cannot afford to hold IFLA conference because of the high expenditure involved.

#### ALP Core Programme

ALP—Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World, one of the five core programmes of IFLA, was officially started in 1984. It was the subject of intensive discussion between 1987 and 1989. Since 1989 it has been developed by a consultant based at the University of Uppsala, Sweden with financial support from the Swedish

International Development Authority (SIDA). A report on the objectives and operation of the ALP programme was presented at the 1990 IFLA conference in Stockholm.

ALP covers the entire spectrum of IFLA activities but it also has a programme identity of its own, concentrating on issues specific to the Third World.

In broad terms, the most important areas of ALP are: Education and training; Promotion of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas; and greater identification and involvement of libraries with literacy programmes.

The objectives of the ALP core programme are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries, so as to enable them to play an active role in national development.

Some examples of ALP projects are:

- Information provision in rural communities in Africa, Extension of library services such as community information to rural areas.
- School library projects, e.g., "dual use" libraries in Africa and "reading halls" in Brazil.
- Literacy campaigns and products of materials in local languages for the newly literate.
- Workshops on reading promotion.

*Correspondence address:*

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C/o Uppsala University Library

Box 510, S-751 20 Uppsala

Sweden.

Tel: 46-18-183989; Fax 46-18-183913



— A WARM WELCOME —



A Real Hot Treat

# Introspect

and

# Prospect

## Conference Participation

IFLA 92 was to be the biggest conference event in India. Unfortunately the turnout was only half of what was expected.

Delegates	
— Foreign	763
— Indian	410
Accompanying persons	121
Total	<hr/> 1294 <hr/>

The Indian Organising Committee (IOC) had made the projections of **infrastructural** requirements on a magic number of 2000. Right from the beginning, the growth in registration had been stow. Though the conference authorities may offer a set of standard bureaucratic explanations, one must admit that the conference did not receive due publicity. It is futile to do the post-mortem analysis of the factors now. The basic subject interest, the lure of Taj Mahal and the attraction of shopping sprees were enough to attract the world library community. Conference organisers in Barcelona and Havana better watch out!

In all 80 countries were represented. Among the foreign **participants**, the largest contingent was from the USA (107) followed by France (60), Netherlands (50), UK (50), Iran (43), Denmark (38), Sweden (33), and Germany (33). The conference sessions recorded a better attendance from the developing countries (about 63% including India and 30% excluding India). This apart, conference participation had certain unique features. First of all, New Delhi provided a most welcome opportunity for library and information scientists from countries in South and Central Asia like India, Bangladesh (3) China (18), Cambodia (1), Hongkong (4), Iran (43) Malaysia (12), Maldives (1), Nepal (4), Pakistan (23), The Philippines (2), Sri Lanka (4), and Thailand (12). There were participants from new countries like Estonia (2), Kazakhstan (1) Russia (15), Slovenia (4) and Ukraine (2). It is also unusual to see such a large gathering of Scandinavians (110) in a single conference in India. Once again, perhaps for the first time, the Indian library and information scientists had a chance to interact closely with fellow professionals from South Africa, Israel and SAARC countries.



The  
Registration  
Desk

While on the subject, it may be worthwhile to dwell a bit on the cost of participation of delegates from developing countries. Indians constituted roughly about a third of the participants. Nevertheless, the number is depressingly low considering the population of library and information scientists in the country. And this was after reduction of registration fee from the full rate of \$ 300 (Rs. 9,000 approx) to Rs. 3,000. If the full rates were charged from the host country participants as well, India might not have figured in the top 10 in terms of the number of delegates. But considering the very modest delegates remuneration received by library professionals, payment of even this reduced level of registration fee of Rs. 3,000 is beyond their reach.. No wonder

only 22% of the Indian contingent was from universities and academic institutions. In this light the decision of the Indian Organising Committee to offer free registration to its members who could not manage payment of fees by their respective institutions, was a welcome gesture indeed.

IFLA should take note of this problem and fix differential rates of registration fees in order to attract participation from developing countries. The conference organisers should be given a free hand to work out the registration fees of local participants after due consideration of the capacity to pay by library and information scientists of the host country.

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## Technical Content

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IFLA 92 was preceded by 10 seminars/workshops and followed by\*one. During the conference itself, a large number of meetings, deliberations in open forums, round tables, workshops on diverse topics were held. A precise count of the number of papers presented does not seem possible. According to Winston Roberts, Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters, 86 papers were received in time and another 40 subsequently (source IFLA Express (No. 7) dated 4 Sept. 1992 whereas, the printed list of papers indicates 124, and the Programme Handbook about 190. The geographical distribution of papers as listed in the Programme Handbook by country of origin shows an interesting pattern:

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Country of Origin	% of Total
<b>India</b>	<b>23</b>
Rest of Asia	6
Africa	6
Australia & Pacific	5
West Europe	25
North Europe	6
East Europe	6
North America	18
South America	5

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The even contribution of the developed and developing countries to the total is mainly due to the large number of Indian papers (44). It may be noted that Europe and North America accounted for as high as 53% of the total contributions whereas all other continents i.e., Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America may come a poor second.

One could only guess the factors responsible for this pattern. Professionals from outside of Europe and North America, are not generally aware of the schedule for submission of papers, or the coordinators to whom the papers are to be sent. Since most of the chairpersons and important functionaries also hail from these two continents.

Since their knowledge about and linkages with counterparts outside the two regions is not too good, the invited papers also originate from these two continents.

An Iranian delegates'(a computer scientist himself (fluent in English) attempted another explanation to this imbalance. According to him, professionals from outside of North America and Europe do not have a good command over the conference languages. Even if they have the competence and intention to contribute papers, such shortcomings usually prove discouraging. IFLA Headquarters or their national authorities should be able to extend translation support so as to help overcome this problem.

President Robert Wedgeworth and the past President Hans-Peter Geh, emphasize that IFLA conferences are no longer endemic to Europe and North America. These conferences are now being held in the developing countries to sensitise professionals from outside these regions and to gather inputs for reorienting IFLA activities. While the move is welcome, the objective may not be realised if a free for all format is adopted. Serious structured initiatives are called for.

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## Deliberations

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The subject coverage of IFLA conference appears to be too extensive to permit serious attention. For example on the first day (afternoon) the conference had 20 deliberations; in the evening another 10. On the morning of September 3 as many as 34 deliberations were scheduled. Besides, about 10 sessions were found to run in parallel always with more than 200 members out on officially sponsored jaunts, and an equal number dozing in the lounge (a familiar sight perhaps because of the oppressive heat or being out on personal trips). No wonder individual sessions were thinly attended. Unless one had planned participation in various events meticulously and had gone strictly by the clock, one would end up jogging around only.

The paper presenters and chairpersons also had problems in managing their time. On an average three papers were presented in a 60-90

minute session. It was amazing to find that one session in the late afternoon on the second day, had four papers crammed into a 30 minute slot. Moreover, most of the papers were read from the first to the last line, and not "presented" in true sense of the term. What else one could expect in such a **situation** but empty chairs!

IFLA should design the general conference such that the deliberations are a little more intensive.

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## Paper Distribution

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How volunteers slogged from morning till night to supply the photo-copies of papers is something to be seen and believed. As many as 10662 copies were made in 8 days, that is on an average 1333 copies per day. This would be a good lesson to learn for the institutions offering document delivery services in India.

Perhaps in over-enthusiasm, a lot of extra copies were made for which there were no takers. The truck-ful materials may finally end up as waste-paper of IFLA secretariat. An official puts the loss at Rs two hundred thousand. This may be an over estimate, however.

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## Library Visits

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Library visits were also arranged for the participants between 31 Aug and 4 Sept. Altogether 482 delegates availed themselves of the visits to 5 libraries, namely, **INSDOC**, Delhi University (DU), Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Delhi, Parliament Library (PL) and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

Library	Number of trips	Number of visitors
INSDOC	8	157
Delhi University	6	139
IIT	2	22
PL	1	86
IGNCA	3	78

The response was not very encouraging, averaging only about twenty visitors per trip. It appears that the delegates from developed countries did not think it worthwhile to be informed of the situation in a country like India, nor were the developing **countries** interested to know how their Indian counterparts operate in a similar environment. It would have been a good exercise to elicit information from those who had been on the trips to ascertain their interests and reactions after the visits. □



Sight seeing in New Delhi



On a Shopping Spree In South Delhi's Exotic Hauz Khas Village



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## THE IFLA EXPRESS

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The Trio (from l) (Ms) C.M. Anardt, **B. Guha**, and P.K. Jaiswal

*IFLA Express*, the daily news bulletin which made its appearance at the conference day-after-day provided a mirror to the goings-on at IFLA '92 meetings, seminars and workshop sessions, and carrying announcements, programme amendments, resolutions, etc.

The Bulletin was eagerly awaited and welcomed by avid readers. In all seven issues were brought out, including two pre-conference issues. One would have liked, however, to see one more issue covering the concluding session of 4 September.

Providing grist to the mill and tilling up its hopper were the dedicated trio: B. Guha, (Ms) C.M. Anand and P.K. Jaiswal. They slogged day and night, hour by hour poring over the copy till well past midnight in their brave effort to beat the printer's deadline.

The trio has indeed earned much recognition and appreciation for the splendid job done. Three cheers for the *IFLA EXPRESS* Team!

## The Exhibition



The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) Stall at the IFLA Exhibit attracted many visitors

The exhibition was planned to be a big one, and therefore was housed in two separate halls (and inaugurated separately). Unfortunately, it did not attract many exhibitors as the following table would indicate.

### Participation In Exhibition

Exhibitor	No. of Exhibitors	No. of stalls
Indian	41	46
Foreign	22	29
Total	63	75

Exhibits	No. of Exhibitors	No. of stalls
IT items	17	24
Books, etc.	46	51

It is now meaningless to do a post-mortem analysis of factors behind such poor participation. The low turnout of foreign IT exhibitors was perhaps because the global operators still view India or the Asian countries as a market of print items only not of electronic information.

The exhibition was visited mainly by the IFLA delegates only. Outsiders were not aware of it.

NISSAT NEWSLETTER NO. 4, 1992

Poor publicity and especially the heat and humidity, remote location and the five star facade might have been responsible for this poor response.

### Exhibitor off to Greener Pastures

It is believed that an aggrieved exhibitor at the carpark exhibition site sought compensation for books damaged by dripping air-conditioners while another packed off to Agra with potential clients to discuss business against the majestic backdrop of the Taj.



V.K. Varun at the NISSAT stall explains the significance and role of the Calcutta Library Network In resource sharing

To entertain the guests, cultural programmes like music and dance were arranged on three evenings during the Conference.

### Kathak

A dance recital in Kathak by the renowned maestro, Birju Maharaj, and his team was organised. On the opening day (30 August) in Siri Fort Auditorium. Kathak has its roots in Katha meaning, a story. A band of story tellers who were attached to temples in North India, narrated stories from the epics and in between, elaborated their musical narrations with facial expressions and body movements depicting the relevant moods. Radha-Krishna legend became a popular theme for the temple performances. With the advent of Muslim rule, Kathak moved from temples to courts where it found a patron in King Wajid Ali Shah, himself a dancer and musician. Thus, Lucknow, Banaras (Varanasi) and Jaipur became the centres of this art.

### Odissi

This dance programme was organised at Kamani Auditorium featuring Odissi dance by (Ms) Madhavi Mudgal and Bharatanatyam by (Ms) Leela Samson, both popular young artistes of the capital.

Odissi based on the ancient dance text '*Natyashastra*', has its early recorded evidence during the reign of Jain King Kharavela of Orissa (Second Century BC) who himself was a musician and dancer.

### Bharatanatyam

Bharatanatyam is the oldest Indian classical dance and draws its authority from the ancient text '*Nritya shastra*'.

Leela Samson presented a choreographed version of Kalidasa's epic '*Kumarasambhava*' portraying the Puranic story of the marriage of Lord Siva with Parvati and the birth of Skanda. This was followed by a *Jawali* and ended with a *Thillana* based on Raga Nat Bhairavi. By her beautiful rendition of the theme and deft execution

## PERCEPTIONS

Mr B. Goicoechea (Spain)

There was no water or cold drinks. The auditorium was hot and the cultural programme very boring. I do not understand the tootwork in dance.

Mr Joel Plassard (France)

In the cultural programme, dances of the ladies were superb but the dance of the man was not appealing at all.

(Ms) E. Lykourl-Lazarou (Greece)

Kathak dance was very monotonous, especially a middle aged man dancing on a theme not easily understood (by the foreign audience).

(Ms) Mari Anne Guilabau (France)

Dance is something which suits women but does not look good when performed by men. specially the aged ones. Odissi and Bharatanatyam were more impressive.



of the dance patterns, Leela Samson drew repeated applause from the audience.

### Folk Dances

A programme of folk dances of North-Eastern India was presented by the Manipuri Jagoi Marup Group, at the SRC Auditorium which provided the delegates some relief from the heavy dose of classical dances. They also had the opportunity to see the exhibition and demonstration of the Indian traditional crafts at the Hauz Khas village—another tourist spot in the capital. Sight seeing tours of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, were arranged.

One wonders whether it is appropriate to impose on gatherings of this kind classical productions of this type for their entertainment.

28 The cultural evenings were planned with scant regard to the tastes and background of the foreign

A dance **recital In Kathak** by the renowned maestro Pt. Blrju Maharaj. As the dancer undulated to the oriental rythms, his superb performance drew much appreciation from the audience

audience. There was no variety, as all the items were composed of dances, most of them classical. Some instrumental music on Sitar, Sarod, Flute, Shehnai quite popular in the West, could be included. And why not opt for lighter version of our dance and music by drafting dance ballets of Sachin Shankar and orchestral compositions of Anand Shankar, The foreign audience with little background of our epics and mythology wondered why we were eulogising abstract dance themes.

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## The Resolutions

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### TOPIC: Government Support

**Background:** By and large, Government support for library and information services in developing countries is inadequate and this is often attributable to the absence of national policy.

**Resolution:** Library associations and other lead agencies at the national level are urged to combine efforts in formulating and recommending national policy for library and information services for the consideration of the Government, in order to improve provisions overall and enhance the image and status of the profession.

### TOPIC: Socio-Cultural Impact

**Background:** In developing countries, library and information services have failed to make a significant impact in the national developmental process. This has impinged in turn on considerations of image and status.

**Resolution:** IFLA as well as national associations and institutions need to focus greater attention on activities associated with high priority national concerns, such as the eradication of illiteracy, the promotion of information services and oral culture, and demonstrate its commitment and support in order to further enhance the image and status of the profession.

### TOPIC: Regulatory Instruments

**Background:** Many countries have enacted or adopted various laws, policies, statutes and codes of ethics to facilitate the establishment of an infrastructure and the better functioning of their library and information services.

**Resolution:** That IFLA/UNESCO compile and publish a manual providing guidance on the preparation of library and information legislation and policy, codes of ethics and statutory recognition of the profession based on experience in both the developing and developed countries in order to upgrade the quality of services and enhance professional performance.

## TOPIC: Education and Training

**Background:** In the final analysis, the image and status of the profession is dependent on professional performance, which is itself the result of education at the entry levels, attitudes, curriculum contents, continuing education and accreditation.

### Resolutions:

- 1) IFLA, through its Division for Education and Research, should prepare guidelines on curriculum content which should also include the teaching of the concept of professionalism, education at entry levels, teaching and other support facilities for consideration of library schools at national level.
- 2) Library associations and other lead agencies at national level should provide programmes in continuing education to enhance professional capability.
- 3) Library associations should function as national accreditation bodies where appropriate.
- 4) IFLA should support regional forums on education and training taking into account ongoing initiatives.

## TOPIC: Professional Associations

**Background:** It is recognized that by and large, library associations in the developing countries are weak and are unable to perform their primary functions, which in turn reflects unfavourably on the overall profession.

### Resolutions: IFLA is urged

- 1) to support improvements in respect of the management of library associations based on the Unesco Guidelines.
- 2) through its existing regional sections, offices and groups to facilitate the creation and activities of regional and sub-regional associations.
- 3) to encourage national library associations to explore linkages with related interest groups in order to enhance the national stature of the profession.

## TOPIC: Standards and Guidelines

**Background:** The quality of library and information services is partly dependent on compliance with standards and guidelines. There is a pressing need, therefore, for input/performance standards and guidelines to be formulated to enhance the quality of services and improve professional performance.

**Resolution:** Thai IFLA publishes a manual of standards and guidelines for library and information services for dissemination to member associations and institutions in order to facilitate the formulation of input/performance standards at the national level so as to enhance the quality of services as well as societal recognition of the profession.

## TOPIC: Public Perceptions

**Background:** School children and their parents often have their earliest encounter with libraries through the school library. Although education is often a priority, school libraries tend to be the most neglected. Early public perceptions of the profession, therefore, tend to be negative.

**Resolution:** IFLA, national library associations and institutions are urged to impress on Governments and on educational authorities the importance of school libraries as an integral part of the educational process with commensurate support provisions.

## TOPIC: User Satisfaction

**Background:** It is recognized that user satisfaction of the services provided by library and information services contributes towards enhancing the image and status of the profession and that few such surveys have been conducted in the developing countries.

### Resolutions:

- 1) That IFLA, through consultation with member associations and institutions and on the basis of IFLA Guidelines, creates a standard questionnaire to ensure consistency, reliability and comparability of data.
- 2) That IFLA then undertakes surveys of user satisfaction in collaboration with regional/national organisations, modifying the standard questionnaire as appropriate, to reflect regional/national needs and facilitate the use of survey results.

## TOPIC: Case Studies: Positive Perceptions

**Background:** It is recognized that there are too many negative perceptions of the library and information profession and that a compilation of case studies of positive perceptions would help to enhance the image and status of the profession.

**Resolution:** That IFLA compiles a handbook of case studies which illustrate the successful provision of library and information services and the positive perceptions of the user community in order to promote a more positive image of the profession.

## TOPIC: Reliable Data

**Background:** It is recognised that there is a lack of reliable data on the image and status of the library and information profession in the developing countries and inadequate forums for their consideration.

### Resolutions: that IFLA:

- 1) formulates standards and guidelines covering core areas for adoption or modification by member associations and institutions.
- 2) encourages member associations and institutions to collect and analyze relevant information.
- 3) provides support for regional/national forums to consider activities aimed at enhancing the status and image of the profession.

## PROFESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS

### Women's Interests In Librarianship (WIL)

#### Topics:

- 1) To survey the status of women in the profession and within IFLA and other professional groups.
- 2) To monitor the Medium-Term Programmes as they affect women.
- 3) To disseminate information to and about women through libraries.

#### Background:

The Working Group was established in Moscow after a preliminary meeting in Stockholm.

A meeting was held in New Delhi on 31 August 1992 and an open meeting on 1 September 1992.

Resolution: The WIL Working Group is now asking to be recognized as a Round Table within the IFLA organization.

Pat Darter, Co-Chair

Mary Biblo, Co-Chair

Bva Trotzing, Secretary

## ROUND TABLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

### TOPIC: Organizational cooperation In the field of information

Background: Recent development in the worlds of libraries, information and archives have produced a situation where there is an overlap in the work undertaken by these organizations and with the decrease of resources to undertake this work, there is an urgent requirement to explore cooperative efforts.

Resolution: The RTMLA urges IFLA in close cooperation with other information bodies to consider the need to investigate ways in which they may cooperate in the future by **working** more closely together thus avoiding wastelull duplication of efforts.

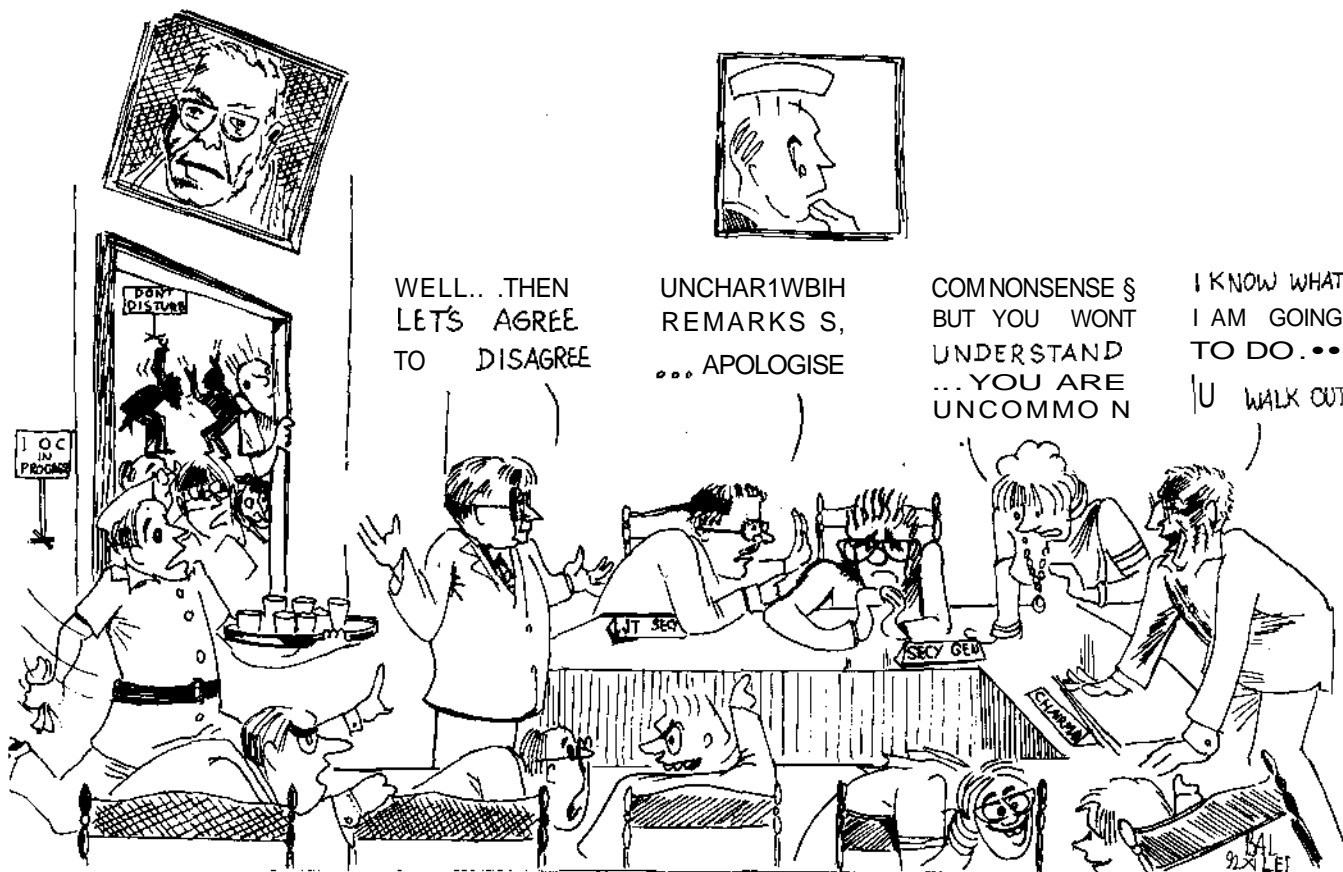
## POST CONFERENCE SEMINAR 1992

### Topic: Reading

**Issues** discussed: Reading materials in different physical forms and for groups of readers, promotion of reading habits, censorship, barriers, oral society, literacy etc.

Resolution: Conduct of research and survey analysis recommended.





WELL... THEN  
LET'S AGREE  
TO DISAGREE

UNCHAR1WBIH  
REMARKS S,  
... APOLOGISE

COMMONSENSE §  
BUT YOU WONT  
UNDERSTAND  
... YOU ARE  
UNCOMMON

I KNOW WHAT  
I AM GOING  
TO DO...  
U WALK OUT

**IOC in Session**

Close to 200 people were at work almost round the clock attending to various organisational details of the great event that was IFLA. These were:

IOC Members	23
Sub-committee Members	80
Volunteers and others	89

Tension packed verbal duels over different view-points were inevitable in this process. In one case a senior IOC member had to be laid up for a while after a stormy argument. The proceedings, however were generally peaceful and ended in amity and bonhomie. Kudos to the LIS Fraternity!



... is ready for fire fighting



The NISSAT 'News Team' (from l.) V.K. Rangra, Anil Sharma  
Arundhati Bagchi, Abjijit Lahiri, and Purba Banerjee

**59TH IFLA CONFERENCE 22-28 AUGUST 1993 AT BARCELONA, SPAIN**

**Theme:** The Universal Library: **Libraries as Centres (or the Global Availability 01 information.**

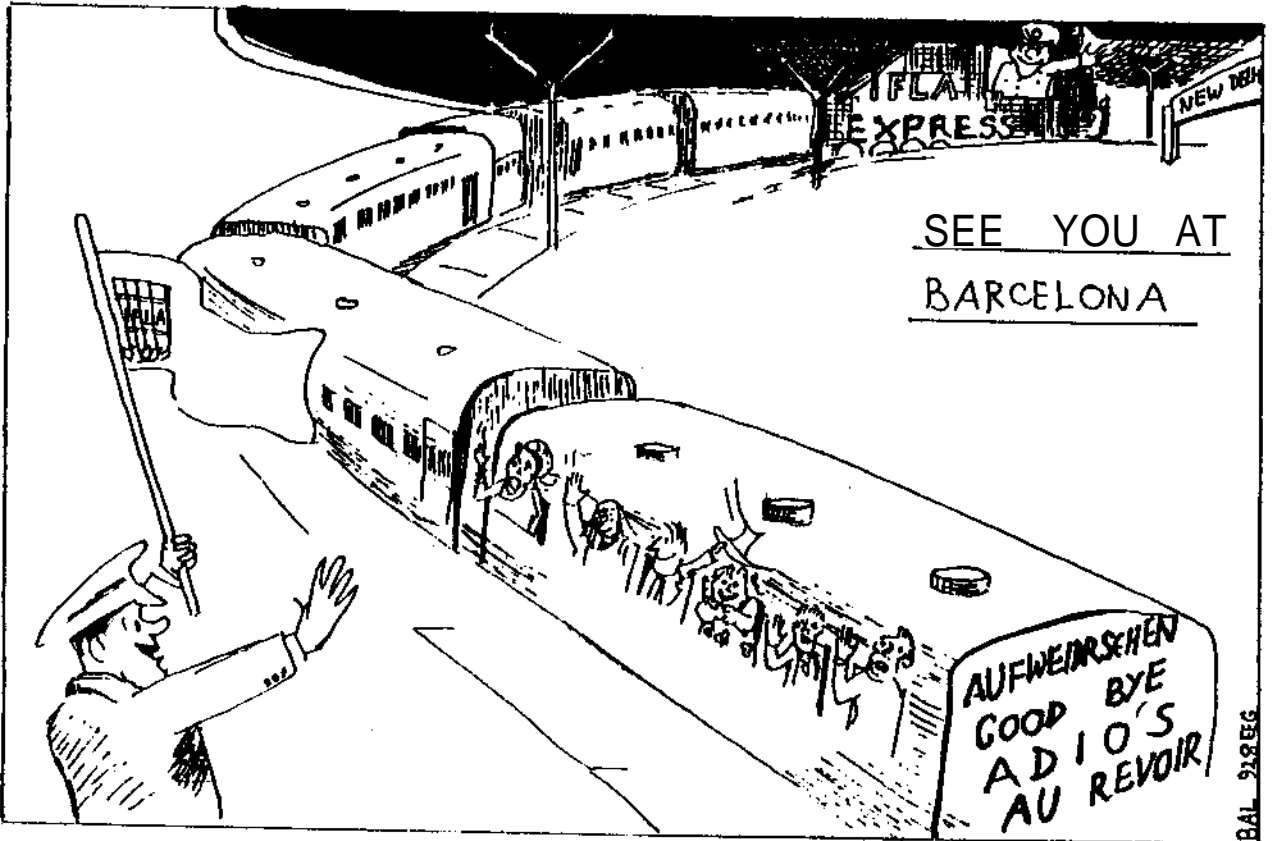
**For details contact;**

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IFLA-93 Conference Organising Committee  
(Easter Omella)  
Egipcíacs, 15  
08001 BARCELONA  
Spain

**60TH IFLA CONFERENCE: 21-28TH AUGUST, 1994, AT HAVANA, CUBA**

Theme: Libraries and Social Development

For details contact:  
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Biblioteca Nacional  
Plaza de la Revolución  
Ciudad de la  
Habana  
Cuba



SEE YOU AT  
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