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EDITORIAL

Why a special issue on Latin America and the Caribbean?

Ramon Abad

In just a few weeks the 70th IFLA General Conference and Council, now renamed the World Library and Information Congress, will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. For the first time in IFLA's history, the South American continent will host this most important international library and information annual meeting. Ten years before, Havana, Cuba, was the city chosen for the 60th IFLA conference; this is therefore the second time that IFLA has gone to the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Traditionally, *IFLA Journal* publishes an article each year dealing with the libraries of the annual meeting's host country. This year is no exception, as demonstrated by Ana Maria Peruchena's detailed description of Argentinian libraries, published in this issue. The Buenos Aires conference presents, however, a unique opportunity to present a wider panorama of the region's libraries, providing *IFLA Journal's* readers with a context to help them understand the developments and challenges that libraries in Latin America currently face. Despite its diversity, the Latin American and Caribbean region shares a common historical thread, represented by its colonial past. As a result, the region possesses a cultural homogeneity manifested by the predominance of the Spanish language, followed by Portuguese and, to a lesser extent, English, French and Dutch. As Eliades Acosta points out in his article on ABINIA, national libraries are pillars of the identity of each nation, and therefore the natural custodians of this colonial past. Nevertheless, from Mexico in North America, to Tierra del Fuego in the far South, indigenous communities are testimony to the pre-colonial era as well as

vehicles for a variety of languages and forms of culture. Cesar Castro Aliaga enumerates a number of initiatives to provide library services to Latin American indigenous populations. Grete Pasch and Diana Miranda show in their article how information technologies are instrumental in the design of international cooperative projects in the traditionally politically fragmented region of Central America. Victor Torres describes both the need for more serious and systematic research at the regional level, and the difficulties that the researcher faces in the quest for professional recognition. The article of Saa-dia Sanchez Vegas discusses the validity of her knowledge management approach in the Latin American context. Finally, Elizabet de Carvalho presents a historical account of the activities of IFLA in the region.

As described above, this issue on Latin America and the Caribbean does not intend to present a state-of-the-art of libraries in the region, but rather a series of snapshots that illustrate the variety of scenarios in which Latin American librarians work and the singularity of a region little-known among library professionals outside Latin America. IFLA is encouraging its three regional sections (Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean) to have a broader presence in the organisation. The publication of the current issue is part of this effort.

Many thanks to the authors for their excellent articles and also to the potential contributors whose papers could not be included due to the lack of time and space. Special thanks to Victor Torres for his invaluable help in identifying topics and authors.

Libraries in Argentina: an overview

**Ana María Peruchena
Zimmermann**



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In the territory where the Argentine Republic is now, there were both public and private libraries from 1610, set up in the schools and monasteries existing at that time. This clearly shows that the people of this country have had a long tradition in the promotion of reading and cultural aspirations.

Historical Background

The history of libraries in Argentina has not been studied deeply, especially regarding the first centuries in the history of the country and the period corresponding to the Spanish conquer of the Río de la Plata territory. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Argentine libraries have had a long course of development, which should be divided into two periods.

The first period corresponds to the colonial era, from the 16th century to the Declaration of Independence in 1810, when the book was brought in by the Spanish conquerors and the different religious orders that settled in the conquered lands to evangelize and educate the indigenous peoples.

The second period started a few months after the Declaration of Independence in 1810, with the establishment of the first public library, that later became the National Library. This period included the hard struggle for national reorganization, the establishment of institutions, the detour in the political path to give birth to a nation after a two-century colonial period, and the creation of a national culture, rooted both in the past and the present, that comprised a wide range of races arising from the different waves of European immigrants, mainly as an outcome of the two world wars.

The colonial period

In the first period, library collections were mostly European, due not only to the place of origin of the authors, but also to the philosophical and political ideas of the period as shown in the works of the great philosophers that enriched the private libraries of the first Spanish colonizers. In the second period, culture was not only European but also indigenous. These cultures intermingled as time passed, with the first editions of Argentine books resulting from the effervescence, typical of domestic writers, in which the mix of cultures always prevailed.

Thus the collections of Argentine libraries have undoubtedly had a style distinguished by European ideas and the American style, from the very beginning up to now. This is the background in which the collections of Argentine libraries started and have developed.

The first libraries in Río de la Plata, during the Spanish period, started from collections belonging to individuals and religious orders, both of Spanish origin. For example, the first library to be ac-

knowledge as such can be traced back to 1588 and belonged to the dean of the Santiago del Estero Cathedral, Francisco Salcedo, who later donated it to the first Jesuits that came to these lands.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the City of Córdoba was the center of the cultural and intellectual life. There, the Jesuit Priest Fernando de Trejo y Sanabria, Bishop of Córdoba del Tucumán founded the Colegio Máximo in 1613, which became the University of Córdoba in 1622. Fernando de Trejo donated his own collection of books to the new university and thus became the oldest university library of the country. Together with other collections from Jesuit schools, the library soon reached over 12,000 titles on religion, philosophy, theology, exact sciences, medicine, history and literature. Since the library was open to the public outside the university it can also be considered as the first public library in the country. In 1818 part of the collection became the foundation for the Buenos Aires Public Library.

Religious orders assumed a key role in Latin American cultural life. Their relevance was the natural outcome of the function they performed in the evangelization of these lands.

In the early 18th century, the people in the territories where the Spanish had settled were mostly evangelized and literate. To accomplish this, the Society of Jesus, from their arrival in Río de La Plata to their suppression on 7 June 1778, had brought in the first printing machine and established libraries at their schools in Córdoba, Buenos Aires, Santa Fe and Mendoza. It is worth mentioning the libraries at the Colegio de Monserrat (1686), founded by Ignacio Duarte y Quiroz, whose collection was transferred to the Universidad de Córdoba, and the Colegio de San Ignacio, (1617) founded by Priest Ignacio Pereda; the latter had over 3,000 volumes. The library of the Jesuit School of Santa Fe, established in 1772, was the first one to become a public library in the Province of Santa Fe, in 1774.

In October 1999 the Provincial Representative of the Society of Jesus in Argentina, Jesuit Priest Álvaro Restrepo, started a project consisting of reuniting the documents from the 16th to the 18th centuries and the 19th century until 1830, which were dispersed in the following places:

- 1,500 items originally placed in the Section of Rare and Old Books of the Library of del Salvador School
- 1,000 items from the Library of the Inmaculada School in Santa Fe
- 1, 000 items from the Seminary of the Society of Jesus in Córdoba
- 500 items from the Jesuit's House in Mendoza
- 4,000 items still deposited in the Library of the Schools of Philosophy and Theology (Facultades de Filosofía y Teología) in the premises of Máximo School in San Miguel (Buenos Aires).

For the better management and preservation of these bibliographical and documentary resources it was decided to unify the collection as the first step towards setting up a research center for the scientific community.

The first action to preserve this collection was to gather all the material from the 16th to 18th centuries, originally scattered throughout different Jesuit premises, in two libraries. Thus half of the books were placed in the library of Colegio del Salvador, and the rest in the library of the Colegio Máximo in San Miguel where the Philosophy and Theology Schools are located. The library of Colegio del Salvador has already about 35,000 pieces and it is particularly rich in history and literature. The library of Colegio Máximo holds about 140,000 pieces and has specialized, throughout its 70-year life, in theology and philosophy; it also has a relevant humanistic studies section.

The books cover a wide range of topics: astronomy, botany, mathematics, theology, philosophy, Biblical exegesis, history, spirituality, law and literature. On these books, both laymen and Jesuits studied and prayed; they were used to educate generations of missionaries who later committed openly to evangelization and the struggle for justice. The maintenance and preservation of this collection is intended to recover this testimony to faith and culture.

The project has not been completed yet, but this collection is undoubtedly the most important in the country and one of the most important of its kind in Latin America. Among the most important items are some American incunabula printed in the Settlements of the Former Province of Paraguay. These works were printed with printing types made by the Jesuits themselves in the early 18th century. They were published in the Guaraní language. The collection comprises the *Manuale ad usum Patrum Societatis Iesu qui in Reductionibus Paraquariae versantur* (Laureti typis PP. Societatis Iesu 1721); *Sermones y exemplos en lengua Guaraní* por Nicolas Yapuguay (In the Town of San Francisco Javier 1727); *Ex-*

plicación de el Catecismo en lengua guaraní, by Nicolás Yapuguay under the direction of Father Paulo Restivo from the Society of Jesus (In the Town of S. Maria la Mayor 1724). Moreover, the collection also has a copy of the *Tesoro de la lengua guaraní* compiled by Father Padre Antonio Ruiz de Montoya (Juan Sánchez, Madrid, 1639). Among the most remarkable and valuable pieces is the first edition of the *Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio de Loyola* with an inscription by his secretary, Father Polanco, printed in Roma at Antonio Blado's workshop in 1548 and a *Vita Christi* of Ludolfo de Sajonia published in Seville in 1537.

Other rare items include the *Evangelicae Historiae Imagines ex Ordine Evangeliorum quae toto anno in Missae sacrificio recitantur, in ordinem temporis vitae Christi digestae* (Antwerp, 1593) and the *Adnotationes et Meditationes in evangelia* (Antwerp, 1594) by Jerónimo de Nadal with engravings by Bernardino Passeri, Marten de Vos and the brothers Jerome y Antón Wierix, printed in Amberes in 1593 by Martinus Nuntius, successor of Christopher Plantin, who had pledged his effort and estate to do the works. The *Imagines* were used in China by the Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci (1552–1610) for evangelization purposes, while some of these engravings were used to make liturgical and catechism books and inspired a set of porcelain work during the Qing dynasty (Kangxi period) in the early 18th century.

There are numerous publications from the early and mid 16th century, like, for example, a remarkable group of science books, such as the *Pharmacopoeia* by Dioscórides Pedanio, published by Andrés Laguna in Salamanca in 1543, or the *Geometría* by Pérez de Moya, published in Salamanca in 1573. There is a remarkable set of Greek and Latin classics, among which we can find valuable early 16th century editions from the Venetian printing house of the Manuzio family and some other well-known printers.

The conquest and evangelization of America posed serious ideological questions for the European world vision and theorizing; but these problems became more critical for the priests that were in charge of evangelizing the indigenous peoples, since they had to face the issues and give responses on the spur of the moment. Many of these issues were related to religious matters and they cropped up day after day. To respond to the questions, priests needed books. This need also arose from the fragile and unstable school

system that the missionaries had set up to educate indigenous children in Western culture and the Catholic religion. Consequently, the Franciscans, Dominicans and Mercedarians were the first religious orders to found schools and libraries in their monasteries. These first collections satisfied the acute need for preaching rather than recreation. The monasteries with schools, and other schools founded separately, then started to set up libraries with collections of increasing importance on philosophy, theology and literature, which grew to become a network of libraries that covered all the conquered territory.

In 1794 the Monastery of la Merced, located in the capital city of Río de la Plata, later to be called the City of Buenos Aires, received the donation of the private collection of Facundo de Prieto y Pulido and his wife, Maria de las Nieves Justa de Aguirre. With this collection, which consisted of over 1,000 volumes and the authorization of the Viceroy Nicolás Antonio de Arredondo, the Mercedarians founded a public library in 1794. This collection consisted of dictionaries and works on literature, philosophy, religion, politics, medicine, sciences, law, history and legal matters.

As regards private libraries, it is worth mentioning the collections of Juan Baltasar Maziell, Magistral Canon of the Cathedral of Buenos Aires, who had works in Latin, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, English and French, and of Bishop Manuel Azamor y Ramírez, who had a collection of Greek and Latin classics, works on theological, philosophical and legal matters, natural sciences, physics, geography, history and biography.

The 19th century

In the 19th century, during the first years of independence and simultaneously with the foundation of the University of Buenos Aires in 1821, some important private libraries were established in Buenos Aires. The difference between private libraries and those of monasteries is that the private libraries were more open to new material and consequently heterodox ideas, reflecting in their collections the intellectual interests of the time, such as the Greco-Latin authors. In that period books in French and English were frequently seen in the collections, especially those by authors like Descartes and the French encyclopedists, mainly Voltaire and Rousseau. Then the scope was extended to the sciences and to authors like Newton, Malpighi, Linnaeus and Leibniz, among others.

During the period between independence and the political organization of the country, from 1810 to 1830, there was a clear concept of the public library open to the community and a firm intention to apply it, although it was only implemented for a segment of the population. Nevertheless, the most important thing was the acceptance of the concept of the mission of the public library itself, at a stage in national history when political turmoil and instability prevailed, and only private libraries stood out in Buenos Aires. Among the largest libraries, it is worth mentioning those belonging to Manuel Belgrano, creator of the Argentine flag, who donated all his books to the public library of Buenos Aires (established in 1810) and to Hipólito Vieytes, erudite in economics, which had a large number of books and dictionaries in different languages.

During the rule of Juan Manuel de Rosas (1830–1852) the country lived under an authoritarian administration in which education was controlled by the State. The cultural activities of the country were virtually suspended until 1853, when the National Constitution was adopted and a period of political, economic and cultural reorganization was begun.

In 1860 the Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires was founded, which signaled a starting point for the organization of education. The new school already had an outstanding record since it had started in 1662 as Colegio Mayor de San Ignacio, then in 1772 it had become Colegio de San Carlos and in 1783, Real Colegio Carolino; book collections had accumulated and made up a valuable library of over 4,200 books by 1875. At present the library of the Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires has over 80,000 works.

The library of the University of Buenos Aires, after the long bleak period during Rosas' administration, consisted of only 3,920 volumes, according to its 1868 annual report. Soon after that, a sizeable exchange operation was set in motion with the libraries of the Universities of Santiago de Chile, Lima and Bogotá and private donations were received from benefactors such as Juan María Gutiérrez, Manuel Ricardo Trilles, Bartolomé Mitre, Andrés Lamas, Lucio V. Mansilla, Félix Frías, Germán Burmeister, José María Cantilo, Mariano Balcarce, Manuela Gorriti, José Manuel Estrada, Marcos Sastre, Vicente Fidel López, and others.

After 1875, the University Library's collections were divided into two sections to establish the

Biblioteca del Consejo Superior (Library of the Superior Council), which encompassed the academic collections and the Casa de Estudios (House of Studies), with general material. In 1885, the University was deprived of its Central Library when these two collections were broken up and distributed among the corresponding schools, which from that moment onwards started to establish their own libraries.

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, President of Argentina from 1868 to 1874, was undoubtedly the most relevant political character in connection with libraries in Argentina. During his term of office, he clearly stated his ideas about the close relationship between teaching and libraries and the concept about the library as the university "where people who have no chances of access to higher education are formed". In this context, he also supported the idea that "democracy calls for educated citizens, prepared to elect their own authorities and education is the only way to achieve this aim ...". In his zeal to take the book everywhere, he established public libraries in fourteen parishes in Buenos Aires; he even set up a book loan system and mobile libraries managed by the Consejo General de Educación (General Council for Education), called popular libraries. After the enactment of Act number 419, which Sarmiento himself passed on 23 September 1870, these popular libraries spread all over the national territory. In the same year, and while Sarmiento was still in office, a library was established to keep a record of official publications. In 1884, with the enactment of Act 1420 on Ordinary Education (Ley de Educación Común No. 1420) this library was called Biblioteca Pública de Maestros (Public Library for Teachers), and assumed the role of a pedagogical library.

The 20th century

In the 20th century, like in the rest of the world, libraries aimed at specializing their collections and creating services with the focus on certain types of users. This is a stage in which there is a change from manual and traditional work to new technologies, with the development of the profession through the opening of library science schools. These major changes have taken place mainly in university and specialized libraries. At present, technological weaknesses and the lack of updated collections can be seen mainly in school and public or popular libraries. Some examples of the development of libraries in Argentina are presented below.

National Libraries

Buenos Aires Public Library and National Library

[<http://www.bibnal.edu.ar/>]

The Buenos Aires Public Library (Biblioteca Pública de Buenos Aires), established on 7 September 1810 by an Executive Order of the Government Junta, was inspired by Mariano Moreno, who was at that moment Secretary of the Junta. Its collection comprised 4,000 volumes in the first two months; it was made up of part of the collections of the libraries of the Jesuit Schools of Córdoba, the Colegio de San Carlos de Buenos Aires and outstanding private collections, such as those of Bishop Azamor and Luis José de Chorroarín, its first Director who managed to collect 15,000 volumes between 1811 and 1822. These donations were followed by others, like those of Manuel Belgrano, Mariano Moreno, Mrs. Labaradén, Dr Agüero, Dr O'Gorman, and the English community.

On March 16, 1812 the library was inaugurated; two Librarians were appointed, Dr Saturnino Segurola and Brother Cayetano José Rodríguez and from 1814, Priest Dr Dámaso Antonio de Larrañaga. By 1823 the collection had 17,229 volumes.

In December 1884, under the administration of Dr José Antonio Wilde, the Biblioteca Pública de Buenos Aires became the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library). In January 1885 Wilde was succeeded by Director Paúl Groussac, who first catalogued and classified the collection, which consisted of some 205,000 volumes, and published an alphabetical catalogue of authors with a classification by subject.

The National Library's collections are one of the most important bibliographical sources in Latin America for the discovery of America. Among its most valuable books are 20 incunabula, noteworthy among which are a book by Saint Thomas Aquinas printed in Venice in 1476, a copy of the *Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri printed in 1484, also in Venice, and several editions of *Don Quixote*, one of them published in Brussels in 1607. Despite the fact that the National Library has a good number of incunabula, it is very far from its peer libraries all over the world, as regards both its collections and its technology, preservation and maintenance.

The building where the National Library is currently located was inaugurated on 10 April 1992. This specially designed building is the first that the National Library has owned since its establishment in 1810. The construction, which started in 1960, was financed by the Argentine State and received contributions from the Spanish government. It has seven floors and three basements with a total area of 22,000 m². The moving of its collection of over 1 million volumes finished in 1994.

Library of Congress of the Nation

[<http://www.bcnbib.gov.ar/>]

The origin of the Library of Congress of the Nation (Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación) can be traced to the Constitutional and Legislative Assemblies. In 1826 the Constitutional Congress had its own library, whose collection increased in 1853 when a large number of works in law and political science were added to the collection. In 1859, Act 212 formally established the Library of Congress with the purchase of 620 volumes from Mariscal Andrés' private library in the Province of Santa Cruz. In 1917 the organizational structure was established and a management board composed of two deputies and two senators was appointed to manage the library. In the same year the first public reading room was inaugurated inside the Congress building. In 1923 it was stated that the library would be economically self-sufficient and managed by a bicameral managing board of six senators and six deputies; the board would be chaired alternately by a representative of each chamber for a two-year period.

In 1974 the new building was inaugurated with the public reading room and a reference service. In 1990 a 24-hour service on six days per week was established in the public reading room. In 1994, the Library Juan Félix Cafferata joined the institution. Not only its collection but also the premises were added to the institution, which gave rise to the Library for Children and Young People of the Library of Congress (Biblioteca Infanto-Juvenil de la Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación). In 1995 the Law Library of Congress in Washington DC and the Argentine Library of Congress entered into an Integration Agreement for the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN). The Argentine Republic, represented by the Congress Library, is a founding member of this network, which is an online gateway to worldwide legislation. In 1998 the

Multimedia Room was inaugurated, with free Internet access and technical assistance six days a week.

In 2001 the Library of Congress was granted the Access to Learning Award by the Bill and Melinda Gates' Foundation for providing a flexible timetable, the quality of its services and free Internet access. Between 2002 and 2003 the Library of Congress inaugurated the Multimodal Mobile Library (<http://www.bcnbib.gov.ar/bmm.htm>), the Multimedia Room Leopoldo Marechal and the Public Reading Room in new premises at the historical building of the former Savings Bank. It has several public rooms for reading general material, newspapers and periodicals, publications from international organizations, multimedia room, room for children and young people, legislative reference, bibliographical compilations, official documents, special collections and maps collections. The collection is estimated at over 2 million volumes.

University Libraries

Up to 1853, when the country politically reorganized and started on its first constitutional stage, there were two universities, of Córdoba and Buenos Aires. In Córdoba University, nationalized in 1856, the libraries existing at that time were reorganized into a Central Library and three libraries in the Law and Social Studies School, the Medical Sciences School and the Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences School. All these libraries were based on important collections from the 18th century.

In 1885 the Library of the University of Buenos Aires was reorganized and its collection distributed among the National Library, the Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires, and the libraries of the Schools integrated into the university structure, like the Medical Sciences School, from 1863, the Law School, from 1882, the Philosophy School, founded in 1896, the Exact Sciences School from 1902 and the Agronomy and Veterinary School from 1904.

For a decade, the Ministry of Culture and Education, through the Secretariat for University Policies (Secretaría de Políticas Universitarias – SPU), has fostered the implementation of a national infrastructure upon which the academic network of the country has been based. In November 1994 the SPU and all the national universities subscribed to an agreement that pro-

vided the basis for the University Interconnection Network (Red de Interconexión Universitaria – RIU), which interconnected the 35 national universities and the 39 private universities.

University of Buenos Aires

The libraries of the University of Buenos Aires have the following catalogues on line at <http://www.sisbi.uba.ar/>:

- National University Union Catalogue of Books (Catálogo Colectivo Nacional Universitario de Libros)
- National University Union Catalogue of Periodicals (Catálogo Colectivo Nacional Universitario de Revistas)
- University Libraries Databases (Bases de Datos de Bibliotecas Universitarias)
- Library and Information System (Sistema de Bibliotecas y de Información – SISBI) Catalogue of Periodicals (Catálogo de Revistas del SISBI)
- SISBI Catalogue of Books (Catálogo de Libros del SISBI).

Libraries of the School of Arts

[<http://www.filo.uba.ar/contenidos/biblioteca/frameset.html>]

The libraries of the School of Arts (Bibliotecas de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras) of the University of Buenos Aires make up an information system composed of a Central Library that gives support to graduate, postgraduate, research and supplementary activities and 22 research libraries corresponding to the institutes, the Ethnographic Museum (Museo Etnográfico) and the Museum of the Tilcara Interdisciplinary Institute (Museo del Instituto Interdisciplinario de Tilcara), Province of Jujuy. As time passed, the research institutes and the Ethnographic Museum were created and started to develop their own collections. The collection of the group is one of the most important in Argentina on human and social sciences.

The collection of the Central Library started with the purchase of part of Luis María Gonet's library on 26 October 1897. Large donations were added to this original collection, like that of 5,300 volumes on the history of art and French literature belonging to Carlos Zuberbüler, 4,860 volumes on American history belonging to Carlos Salas, a collection of 7,159 books consisting of material on vocabulary, grammar, dic-

tionaries of different languages and dialects, that also included a copy of the *Songs of the Cid*, Baptista Varesio's edition published in Burgos in 1593, as well as over 300 bibles, belonging to Professor Baldear Dobranich.

At present the Central Library of the Faculty has a collection of 250,000 volumes without taking into account the libraries of the institutes. The total collection of the faculty libraries comprises 600,000 volumes. The Periodicals and Newspaper Library has a very rich collection in the human sciences, with 3,636 titles and 36,895 volumes.

Central Library of the Medical Sciences School

[<http://www.fmed.uba.ar/biblioteca/info.htm>]

The Library of the Medical Sciences School (Biblioteca Central de la Facultad de Medicina) was inaugurated in January 1863 with 300 books, donated and purchased with contributions received from professionals and the government. In its first annual report dated 27 October 1864 it was stated that on that date the library had 804 books and 38 illustrations and that the Publications and Newspapers Library had started its collection with three titles: *Pharmaceutical Periodical* (which is still being published and regularly received), *Official Registry* and *Medical-Surgical Periodical*. Regarding the collection of papers, the library has grown through purchases, donations by authors, publishers and professionals, and some remarkable estates, such as those of medical doctors Chutro, Arce, Michans, etc. The library's collection of over 2,000 classical books on the history of universal medicine, published between mid-1500 and late 1800, is not very well-known. The most remarkable titles in this group are works by Vesalio, Ambroise Paré, Hippocrates and Galen, among others.

An important feature of the collection is the effort made to retrieve the works by the great Argentine medical doctors, as well as to preserve the School's thesis collection, including handwritten works submitted during Juan Manuel de Rosas' administration, that still keep the bow made of red ribbon, the federal symbol in use at that time. The same effort is made to retrieve domestic periodicals by making an analytical record of each article (available at REVAR Database on Internet with over 16,000 entries) There is also a retrospective collection with about 9,600 titles of domestic and foreign periodicals, of which over 1,400, in both paper and electronic format, are still being received.

The collection of papers, estimated at 400,000 works is being updated. The collection includes 22,960 unpublished works submitted to the School (doctoral theses, assignments, prizes).

The library provides remote access electronic services for the professors, requests for information to Internet databases of book collections and analytical references of articles from Argentine periodicals, bibliographical search, direct access to electronic titles and interlibrary services for the free supply of digitized articles (Info@Net/FMED).

Library of the School of Economic Sciences

[<http://www.econ.uba.ar/www/servicios/Biblioteca/ingresar.htm>]

The Library of the School of Economic Sciences (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Económicas) has a collection of 58,000 book titles (112,000 volumes), 1,330 periodical titles, access to databases and collections of texts and periodicals on CD-ROM and the Internet on economics, management, accounting and information systems. Catalogue inquiries can be made in the internal network of the School; through the Internet, basic texts from the bibliography available in the rooms with open stacks can be accessed. The reference service gives general orientation for bibliographical search, inquiries of reference material, legislation and jurisprudence, and assistance to users in the search of titles on CD-ROM and databases available on the Internet. On the web the tables of contents of scientific periodicals and a collection of electronic periodicals can be consulted.

Library of the School of Exact and Natural Sciences

[<http://www.bl.fcen.uba.ar/>]

The Central Library of the School of Exact and Natural Sciences (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales) is specialized in pure and applied science, with a collection of over 260,000 items, among which are 4,000 periodicals and about 110,000 specialized textbooks. It was named after Professor Luis F. Leloir (1906–1987), Chemistry Nobel Prize winner in 1970. There are collections that date back to 1821, when the University of Buenos Aires was founded, as well as reference material and theses. Besides the Central Library, the Exact and Natural Sciences School has ten specialized li-

braries in its departments of organic chemistry, physics, mathematics and computing, and its research institutes for: biochemistry; chemistry, physics of materials, environment and power; geochronology and isotopic geology; and astronomy and space physics.

Libraries of the National University of La Plata

[http://www.unlp.edu.ar/menu/f_biblio.htm]

The Public Library of La Plata University (Universidad Nacional de La Plata), founded in 1884, was first managed by Francisco P. Moreno. In the first stage this library was composed of the Museum of Natural Sciences (Museo de Ciencias Naturales) created on the same date. From 1887, both institutions broke up and in 1888, the library, managed by Augusto Belin, was opened to the public.

The libraries of the Schools were founded before the nationalization of the University. The library of the Natural Sciences School and Museum was founded in 1884 by Perito Moreno. The library of the Agronomy and Veterinary School was established in 1889; it became exclusively the Veterinary School from 1921. The library of the Legal and Social Sciences School was created after the donation of 5,000 volumes belonging to Dr Joaquín V. González in 1906.

In 1905, the former Province University became a National University and the Public Library became the Central Library of the National University of La Plata, with schools of natural sciences, agronomy and veterinary sciences, legal and social studies and human sciences. The system was completed with the integration of the Public Library of La Plata into the University, maintaining its character as a public library. As such, it received large donations of private collections; the first came from its first Director, Francisco P. Moreno, and consisted of 2,000 volumes on American history and the natural sciences. Then the library purchased the private collections of Nicolás Avellaneda, consisting of 5,600 volumes on European literature; of Joaquín V. González, with 5,800 volumes; and of Carlos Vega Belgrano, with 6,991 books. Among the major works belonging to the library are eight incunabula: the most outstanding are a book by Saint Thomas Aquinas printed in Maguncia by Fust and Schoeffer, a book by Jenofonte and a copy of *Don Quixote* printed in 1605 in Valencia. The library also has a major collection of documents from the first years of

independent life of the country. In 1893 the number of books reached 62,707; in 1909 it had climbed to 112,000.

The Public Library of the UNLP is open to the community, which has access to all its services. The library plays three roles: it is a public library, a university library and the central library of the Libraries System of the UNLP. On the other hand, as a central library, it is coordinating the collections of all the libraries of the UNLP.

Library of the University of Córdoba

[<http://www.bmayor.unc.edu.ar/>]

In 1886, with a collection of 100,000 volumes, of historical rather than real value, the Library of the University of Córdoba (Biblioteca de la Universidad de Córdoba), founded in 1622, was re-organized. The library, that had 12,148 volumes when the Jesuits were expelled in 1767, had been practically abandoned and looted until it was partially restored to the University. From this collection, a group of 5,085 books were transferred to the collection of the Public Library of Buenos Aires.

From 1818, and with an important collection of editions prior to 1767, the library opened to the public. That date is considered as the opening date of the current library of the National University of Córdoba.

Library of the University of Palermo

[<http://www.palermo.edu.ar/biblioteca/index.html>]

The collection of Library of the University of Palermo (Biblioteca de la Universidad de Palermo) comprises 36,000 books. It has had access to databases of periodical publications since 1993. There is a remarkable collection of periodical publications printed and in electronic format. It is worth noting the American Studies Collection, donated by the United States Congress, based on an evaluation made by the Cultural Section of the American Embassy in Argentina and the Harvard Business School Core Collection.

Library of the University of Belgrano

[<http://www.onlineub.com>]

The Library of the University of Belgrano (Biblioteca de la Universidad de Belgrano) has docu-

ments and conference proceedings; technical reports; periodical publications, newspapers and periodicals; encyclopedias, dictionaries and textbooks; theses and Argentine legislation. There is a Digital Library with access to international databases with the complete text of periodical articles, to web pages selected on the Internet, which have been catalogued, classified and annotated, to a catalogue of CD-ROMs, and a catalogue of Categories of Topics. The library is a member of domestic networks such as AMICUS (Network of Private Universities Libraries – Red de Bibliotecas de Universidades Privadas), UNIREN (Network of Economic and Social Information Networks – Red de Redes de Información Económica y Social), RECIARIA (Argentine Library Networks and Systems – Redes y Sistemas de Bibliotecas Argentinas) and VITRUVIO (Network of Art and Architecture Libraries – Red de Bibliotecas de Arte y Arquitectura).

Libraries of the Catholic University of Argentina

[<http://www.uca.edu.ar>]

The libraries system of the Catholic University of Argentina (Universidad Católica Argentina) comprises the Central Library, the departmental libraries and the research institute libraries. The topics covered are: philosophy, literature, history, educational sciences, psychology, psychopedagogy, foreign languages, theology, social and economic studies, law, political studies, engineering, communication sciences, agrarian studies, health studies, canonical law, music and biomedical ethics. The collections consist of books, serial publications, full-text serials, databases on CD-ROM and the Internet, works on CD-ROM, music CDs, videotapes, theses and maps. Since 2001, the Union Catalogue has been available: it includes the databases of the libraries on theology, agrarian studies, music, canonical law and bioethics.

The services provided are: open stacks circulating library, book lending for use within and outside the lending library, reading rooms, OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), reference and bibliographical services, publications and newspapers library, research rooms, workshops and courses for users, multimedia rooms and a computing laboratory.

The Central Library (<http://www2.uca.edu.ar>) has works on art, history, literature, philosophy, education, psychology, physics, mathematics,

chemistry, engineering, computing, economics, law, politics, advertising, journalism, music, theology, medicine. The collection consists of 150,000 books. Databases are available on the Internet or CD-ROM. It also has a publications and newspaper library with 2,000 titles of periodical publications.

Libraries of the Salvador University

[<http://www.salvador.edu.ar/sv1.htm>]

The library of Salvador College (Colegio de Salvador), also called The Great Library (Biblioteca Grande), has valuable collections on theology, philosophy, history, social studies and literature. The Biblioteca Grande was in charge of taking care of and organizing the valuable heritage that the priests of the Society of Jesus had collected since the establishment of the College, mainly its historical collection; that is the reason why works from the Jesuit missions and texts from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries are still kept.

It is worth noting the remarkable collection of legal works together with works on human and social studies, which in all make up a multidisciplinary collection. It is a university library specialized in Argentine jurisprudence and legislation. It has a remarkable collection on legal studies, mainly on MERCOSUR matters.

In 1997 the Network of USAL Libraries (Red de Bibliotecas de la USAL – RedBUS) was set up at the University. It currently consists of:

- the Library of the Medical Studies School (<http://www.salvador.edu.ar/redbus/sv1-nom.htm> \ BM)
- the Library of the Social Studies School (<http://www.salvador.edu.ar/redbus/sv1-nom.htm> \ BCS) – psychology, psychopedagogy, management studies and economics
- the Luis Lagomarsino Library (<http://www.salvador.edu.ar/redbus/sv1-nom.htm> \ PIL) – multidisciplinary and specialized in agronomy and veterinary studies
- the Signos Library (<http://www.salvador.edu.ar/sv1-6-0.htm>) – periodical publications received from universities worldwide.

The RedBUS libraries have in all a collection that of about 70,000 books. The collection of periodical publications has 1,500 titles on paper, over 3,000 titles of electronic periodicals that can be searched on the Internet and about 1,000 titles in closed collections. The Central Library main-

tains services to the USAL community through the RedBUS web page and the Centralized Automated Catalogue (CACE) (<http://www.biblioteca.salvador.edu.ar/>).

RedBUS works in cooperation with other libraries. At present it is taking an active role in: UNIREG; AMICUS; JUIRED (Network of Legal Libraries – Red de Bibliotecas de Derecho y Ciencias Jurídicas); RENDIAP (Network of Documentation and Information for Public Administration – Red de Documentación e Información en Administración Pública), coordinated by the National Institute for the Public Administration (Instituto Nacional de la Administración Pública – INAP); RENICS (National Network of Information on Health Sciences – Red Nacional de Información en Ciencias de la Salud) and RECIARIA.

RedBUS works closely with the library of the Interdisciplinary Center for Research in Psychology, Mathematics and Experiments (Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigaciones en Psicología Matemática y Experimental – CIIPME-CONICET), specialized in psychology.

Library of the Argentine University for the Enterprise

[http://www.biblioteca.uade.edu.ar/biblioteca/bib_index.htm]

The Library of the Argentine University for the Enterprise (Biblioteca de la Universidad Argentina de la Empresa) is a semipublic library that serves three schools. It has an area of 1,250 sq. meters. There are two group rooms, two silent reading rooms, an Internet search room with 30 terminals, a video room, a reference area and a CD-ROM room. The services for the user are: book lending for use outside the library; reading room; loan of periodical publications, videos, CD-ROMs and tapes (only in the room); interlibrary loans; and OPAC with touch screen to search in the databases of the library. Through the virtual library service, 4,750 titles of periodical publications can be accessed in full text, as well as different specialized databases.

Library of the University of San Andrés

[<http://www.udesa.edu.ar/biblioteca>]

The Library of the University of San Andrés (Biblioteca Universidad de San Andrés): Biblioteca Max von Buch specializes in economics, man-

agement, mathematics, politics, international relations, accounting, history, communication, philosophy and art. Its collection is composed of books, periodical publications, videocassettes, electronic resources and music CDs. It lends for use outside the library and gives interlibrary loans. It has reference and bibliographical orientation services, online catalogue, access to domestic and foreign bibliographical databases, online help guides, access to electronic publications, content tables of periodical publications and a virtual reference service.

It is worth noting the library's strong commitment with international cooperation programs such as: OCLC (catalogue compilation by giving original records to WorldCat and CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog); interlibrary loans); the LARRP (Latin American Research Resource Project), program of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL); and the NACO-PCC (Name Authority Component of the Program for Cooperative Cataloguing), coordinated by the Library of Congress. Its Special Collections and Archives sector plays a key preservation role; the institutional archive collects the archives of companies and outstanding personalities; it is the custodian of the collection of the Society of Argentine Bibliophiles.

Public Libraries

Libraries of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires

[<http://www.gcba.gov.ar/areas/cultura/libros/bibliotecas.asp>]

In the City of Buenos Aires there are 26 public libraries with free access. They not only lend books but also receive inquiries and have activities for promoting reading, such as lectures, literature dissemination, narrations, theater and movies.

They were founded in 1927 upon the initiative of the Honorary Committee of Municipal Public Libraries. In 1944 the Board of Municipal Public Libraries was set up. They are distributed throughout the different districts of the City of Buenos Aires. The network is now subordinated to the General Board for the Book and Promotion of Reading of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires (Dirección General del Libro y Promoción de la Lectura del Gobierno

de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires). It has a centralized catalogue.

National Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries

[[http:// www.conabip.gov.ar/](http://www.conabip.gov.ar/)]

The National Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries (Comisión Nacional Protectora de Bibliotecas Populares – CONABIP) is a national organization subordinated to the Secretariat of Culture of the Presidency of the Argentine Republic, pursuant to Act Nbr. 23351 on Popular Libraries.

Popular libraries were created after the enactment of Act 419 in 1870. Its promoter, then Argentine President, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, was certain that the progress of the Argentine society depended on the implementation of a popular educational system. Likewise, he thought that education would not be extensive or permanent without a popular libraries program that would disseminate books and reading all over the country. For that reason, one of the first measures he took in 1870 when he became President of the Republic was to send a bill to the National Congress for the creation of a Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries. Act Nbr. 419 created the Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries to foster and invest the funds for the establishment of popular libraries in cities, villages and any other centers of population, as one of the most relevant educational and cultural institutions for the development of the country.

In 1910 there were 191 popular libraries; by 1925, the number had reached 1,012. In 1919, President Hipólito Yrigoyen enacted the Executive Order that stated the powers of the Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries. As from that moment, new Popular Libraries were created; there were 1,177 libraries in 1926; by 1947 there were 1,508, with over 5 million books distributed all over the country.

In 1952, the first guide for these libraries was published and distributed. By 1954 the number of popular libraries reached 1,963, with 6,971,152 books and 5,535,521 readers per year. In 1986, a new Act nbr. 23351 on Popular Libraries was enacted; the entity changed its name to National Committee for the Protection of Popular Libraries, taking the acronym CONABIP. The final provisions of the new law were drafted

in 1989 and came into force as from 1990. Now, over 2,000 libraries are under the protection and support of CONABIP.

Act 23351 sets forth – among other aspects and benefits of the popular libraries – the objectives and the operation of the Committee subordinated to the National Secretariat of Culture and raises a Special Sum for the maintenance of these libraries. Since 1989, these resources have enabled CONABIP to increase significantly the bibliographic and multimedia material, improve its premises, get technological training and provide mobile library services.

CONABIP's Board consists of a President, a Secretary and five members: one represents the leaders of the popular libraries; one the graduate librarians; one the business and/or cultural sector; and the remaining two act on behalf of the Representative Board for Popular Libraries (Junta Representativa de Bibliotecas Populares). This Board is composed of a government representative and representatives of the Provincial Federation of Popular Libraries (Federación Provincial de Bibliotecas Populares), one from each province and the City of Buenos Aires. The Board acts as a technical consulting body for the CONABIP, as regards the action plans formulation and the coordination of the activities throughout the country.

Specialized Libraries

In the 19th century, the first specialized libraries started to be set up, mostly in the City of Buenos Aires. Among the first libraries for which there is information available, the following libraries stand out:

- Biblioteca de la Sociedad Rural Argentina (Library of the Argentine Rural Association) (1866)
- Biblioteca de la Sociedad Científica Argentina (Library of the Argentine Scientific Society) (1872)
- Biblioteca de la Unión Industrial Argentina (Library of the Argentine Industrial Union) (1875)
- Biblioteca del Círculo Militar (Military Association Library) (1881)
- Biblioteca del Centro Naval (Navy Association Library) (1882)
- Biblioteca de la Bolsa de Comercio (Stock Exchange Library) (1854)

In the early 20th century, the following libraries were established:

- Biblioteca del Instituto Geográfico Militar (Library of the Military Geographical Institute)
- Biblioteca del Centro Argentino de Ingenieros (Library of the Argentine Engineers' Association)
- Biblioteca de la Asociación Argentina de Compañías de Seguros (Library of the Argentine Association of Insurance Companies)
- Biblioteca de la Asociación Dante Alighieri (Library of the Dante Alighieri Association)
- Biblioteca de la Sociedad Central de Arquitectos (Library of the Central Society of Architects)
- Biblioteca del Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (Library of the National Museum of Fine Arts of the City of Buenos Aires).

It is worth noting that the oldest specialized library is the one that belonged to the Sociedad Rural Argentina from 1866. This collection, specialized in agriculture, cattle breeding, economics, agricultural law and veterinary science, was declared to be public in 1951, when it had 39,800 items. Among the most valuable books we can mention: *The Gentleman's Complete Jockey with the Perfect Horseman Experienced Farrier* from 1711; *Il Dilettante Dàcalle, dato in luce sotto il nome di saggio sopra le razze*, from 1782; *Bibliographie agronomique ou Dictionnaire raisonné des ouvrages sur l'économie rurale et domestique et sur l'art vétérinaire*, from 1810; *Manual de agricultura*, by Tomás Griegera, from 1856; and the *Colección de marcas de la Provincia de Buenos Aires de 1830*, published by Bacle.

Public Information Service and Library of the International Labor Organization in Buenos Aires

[www.ilo.org/public/spanish/region/ampro/buenosaires/]

The Public Information Service and Library of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Buenos Aires (Servicio de Información Pública y Biblioteca de la OIT en Buenos Aires) has the most complete collection of books, documents, reports, periodicals and brochures released by the ITO regarding labor relationships, employment, work conditions, safety and hygiene and aspects related to employment such as economy, social development, rural development and technological changes; ILO's periodical publications

and databases; ITO's publications, web sites and documents with information about different institutions and networks related to ILO's subjects for the countries within the coverage area.

Library of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange

[<http://www.bcba.sba.com.ar/>]

The Library of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (Biblioteca de la Bolsa de Comercio de Buenos Aires) provides information on the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange. It comprises specialized material on stock exchanges, finances, economics in general and the legal framework in which these disciplines are performed. Its collection is composed of 12,000 books, over 200 publications, CD-ROMS and videos. It has access to the Internet and databases on economics and finance, which enable users to have access to 260,000 reports. It is a member of RECIARIA.

Bibliographical Information Center of the Professional Association of Economic Studies for the City of Buenos Aires

[<http://www.cpcecf.org.ar>]

The Bibliographical Information Center of the Professional Association of Economic Studies for the City of Buenos Aires (Centro de Información Bibliográfica del Consejo Profesional de Ciencias Económicas de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires) was founded in 1991 to provide information to professionals in economic sciences. It has a collection of over 14,000 books and periodicals. It provides reference service, bibliographies and specialized searches. On the Internet, inquiries can be made on UNIREL, that has 1 million bibliographical records from 75 libraries specialized in economics and management.

Library of the National Technological Institute

[<http://www.biblio.inti.gov.ar>]

The collection of the Library of the National Technological Institute (Biblioteca del Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI), CIME – CID) consists of books, periodical publications, regulations, databases, technical documents released by the INTI, etc, as well as other resources like online databases, sources of information selected on the Internet, documents suppliers, etc. It also provides a reference service, search of online databases, search of documents on the Internet, technical translations and users' training.

Library of the National Academy of Medicine

[<http://www.acamedbai.org.ar>]

The Library of the National Academy of Medicine (Biblioteca de la Academia Nacional de Medicina) was created in 1938 with the donation of 11,000 items belonging to medical doctors Marcelino and Rafael Herrera Vegas. Among the numerous donations that increased its collection, the book collection of Dr Pedro Arata, with 10,000 items in chemistry, medicine, theses and history, stood out. At present it has 40,000 books and 1,330 titles of periodical publications (open and closed collections). The bibliographical databases (Bulletin of the Academy, Books and Prizes) are available at the portal of the Academy. It is a member of RENICS.

Center of Information and Documentation of the Panamerican Health Organization – World Health Organization

[<http://www.ops.org.ar>]

The Center of Information and Documentation of the Panamerican Health Organization – World Health Organization (Centro de Información y Documentación de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud – Organización Mundial de la Salud) is a reference center in the production of books, documents, publications and multimedia material. It coordinates RENICS, which collects the cooperative work of 70 libraries all over the country. The most relevant product is the Virtual Health Library that enables users to have access to data banks on health sciences, bibliographical catalogues and publications, institutions' directories, activities, libraries, professionals, etc. Additionally, the Center coordinates thirteen electronic forums that distribute information on health sciences among 10,000 users in Argentina.

The center gives technical assistance to develop libraries and information centers for other organizations, according to the methodology used by BIREME, (Centro Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Información en Ciencias de la Salud) to select, process, index and have access to information on the web.

Library of the Argentine Dental Association

[<http://www.aoa.org.ar>]

The Library of the Argentine Dental Association (Biblioteca de la Asociación Odontológica Ar-

gentina) is a Cooperating Regional Center of BIREME, indexing the dental literature in Spanish on the LILACS (Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud) database. It provides bibliographical search services in its collection or in other libraries of RENICS or through the Servicio de Búsquedas de Artículos (Search Service for Articles – SCAD) of BIREME. It has an Internet Room with terminals available for use. It also has catalogues of databases that may be searched on the online terminal available at the library. This year an online catalogue with library material will be implemented and may be consulted on the web page on the Internet.

Central Library of the Supreme Court

[<http://www.pjn.gov.ar>]

The Central Library of the Supreme Court (Biblioteca Central de la Corte Suprema de Justicia) is located in the National Court House. It has a reference room with the main collections of legislation and jurisprudence. At present it has 60,000 items and about 500 titles of periodical publications, domestic and foreign. Although it is specialized in law, it also has material related to economics, philosophy, history and sociology. The library is a member of the JURIED network.

Library of the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights

[<http://www.jus.gov.ar/minjus/ssjyal/Biblio/infobibl.html>]

Founded 40 years ago, the Library of the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights (Biblioteca del Ministerio de Justicia, Seguridad y Derechos Humanos de la Nación) has a complete historic collection of the annals of legislation and doctrine. Since it is the library of the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights, it also provides information for the justice, security and human rights areas. It also provides documents for drafting legislative projects. It is a member of the JURIED network.

National Teachers' Library

[<http://www.bnm.me.gov.ar/>]

The National Teachers' Library (Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros) was founded in 1870 during President Domingo Faustino Sarmiento's admin-

istration. In 1884, with the enactment of Act 1420 on Ordinary Education, the Public Teachers' Library was founded as a pedagogical library for teachers. This library soon had 47,729 items and was opened to the public in 1888. Later it was enriched by the purchase of Leopoldo Lugones' library, a very valuable collection of over 2,000 items, among which were the first publications of his works, many with handwritten corrections and notes.

In 1991, another important private collection became part of this library: Ricardo Levene's Museum, Archive and Library that consisted of 12,000 items, specialized in Argentine and Ibero-american history, sociology, history of law and ideas, manuscripts, drafts, class notes and mail. In 1993, from the enactment of the Federal Law on Education, the library assumed a key role in educational reform, that triggered off the improvement of its entire infrastructure and the creation of the Digital Library Service specialized in education, and its spread to the interior of the country through the federal networks making up the Communication and Information System for the MERCOSUR Educational Sector (Sistema de Comunicación e Información en el MERCOSUR Educativo – SIC).

The library has a reading room (general information, catalogue inquiries: books, multimedia, periodical publications, documents, legislation on education, unified database), researchers' room (special services, reserved collections, history of education), National Document Information Center on Education (Centro Nacional de Información Documental Educativa) (documents, legislation), publications and newspapers library, multimedia library, historical museum and archive.

Almost a century later, in 1960, the National Center of Educational Documentation and Information was established, subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Justice. In 1975 the National Information System on Education (Sistema Nacional de Información Educativa – SNIE), which is responsible for the Red Nacional de Bibliotecas Pedagógicas (National Network of Pedagogical Libraries), a network of educational documentation centers spread all over the country.

Since 1993, the three institutions mentioned above (National Teachers' Library, the National Document Information Center on Education and the National Network of Pedagogical Libraries)

are subordinated to the Under-Secretary for Basic Education, Ministry of Education (Subsecretaría de Educación Básica del Ministerio de Educación).

The Teachers' Library

[<http://www.buenosaires.gov.ar/educacion/docentes/bibleduc/index.php>]

The Teachers' Library (Biblioteca del Docente) of the City of Buenos Aires (not to be confused with the National Teacher's Library) is directly subordinated to the Undersecretariat of Education for the City of Buenos Aires (Subsecretaría de Educación del Gobierno de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires). It is a dynamic center that is continuously developing its collection and openly disseminating its activities. The library was created in 1906 by the President of the School Board, Manuel María de Iriondo, who, based on his private collection, founded the School Library subordinated to the Board, which he called the Reading Table. In 1908, taken as its foundation year, he opened it to the public as a School Library; then it became a Popular Library and later it turned into a Students' Library, pursuant to the regulations of the National Board of Education. In 1978, it became subordinated to the Municipality of the City of Buenos Aires and changed its name to Municipal Teachers' Library. It fell within the jurisdiction of the Undersecretariat of Education in early 1996. At the end of that year the Undersecretariat approved a project to turn the Teachers' Library into a documentation and information center specialized in education and social studies.

The library has a collection of over 22,000 books, reference and literature works, official documents, periodical publications, databases on CD-ROM, musical scores and special collections of old books and the history of Argentine textbooks. It has five terminals with access to databases and the Internet. Consultations can be made in the room; bibliographical orientation or reference information can also be requested by phone, fax, ordinary or electronic mail.

The Center coordinates the Network of Libraries for Higher Education for Teachers (Red de Bibliotecas de los Institutos Superiores de Formación Docente), whose main objective is to provide documentation and information support to professionals and permanent training courses.

**Documentation and Information Center,
Ministry of the Economy**

[<http://cdi.mecon.gov.ar/>]

The Documentation and Information Center (CDI) of the Ministry of Economy (Centro de documentación e información (CDI), Ministerio de Economía) was created in 1993 as a coordinating center for economic, technical and legal information. It consists of the Economy Library and technical libraries on public works, power and transportation. Its objectives are to facilitate the exchange of information with domestic and foreign libraries, coordinate the Argentine NAPLAN (Red Nacional de Planificación = National Planning Network), and coordinate the compilation and updating of Argentine legislation on economic matters.

It has a collection of 250,000 books and periodicals; 400 CD-ROMS; 600 videotapes; 300,000 plans; 100,000 pictures, 30,000 digitized standards on full text; 50,000 digitized abridged standards. As regards bibliographical and technical information it comprehends a wide range of topics, specializing in management, public management, foreign trade, law, economic development, economics, economics for education, economics for health, economics by sector and region, power, project assessment, public finance, MERCOSUR, public works and Argentine economic plans. It provides legal information through the Legislative Information Area, in whose web site <http://infoleg.mecon.gov.ar> most of the Argentine legislation can be consulted. It has a legal library for aspects of legal bibliography (<http://cdi.mecon.gov.ar/juridicos/home.htm>). Through the Center of Research for Public Architecture (Centro de Investigaciones de la Arquitectura Pública) it gives access to original collections of plans and pictures of Argentine Public Works.

The library participates in the following networks and cooperative projects: UNIREN, RENDIAP, RECIARIA, and EDUC.AR, a Web-based gateway on Education.

Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires. General Board for Legislative Information and Archive

[<http://www.cedom.gov.ar>]

The Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires. General Board for Legislative Information and Archive (Legislatura de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. Dirección General de Informa-

ción y Archivo Legislativo (CEDOM)) collects, processes and disseminates information related to administrative law, domestic law, municipal issues, domestic government and administration, economics and finance, public services, ecology and the environment. It is dedicated to the legislative background of Buenos Aires from 1856 to date and the legislation in force in the City of Buenos Aires. It drafts the digest of the City of Buenos Aires and its continuous legislative updating. It gives information on projects submitted to the Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires by legislators, individuals and official bodies as well as comparative legislation on domestic administration and government and jurisprudence on legal claims in which the City of Buenos Aires has been involved. It also provides information about the history of the city and its districts, streets and green spaces.

Argentine Center for Scientific and Technological Information

[<http://www.caicyt-conicet.gov.ar>]

The Argentine Center for Scientific and Technological Information (Centro Argentino de Información Científica y Tecnológica – CAICYT) was created in 1964 as the Center for Scientific Documents promoted by Dr Bernardo Houssay, Nobel Prize winner in 1947 and founder of the Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Consejo de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas – CONICET) in 1958. The objectives of CAICYT, pursuant to the needs of the CONICET and the scientific community, are:

- To promote and perform research and development in scientific and technological information through studies based on methods and techniques applied in the information transfer process.
- To promote and participate in the rational and coordinated structuring of systems and networks of information services at the national level with the contribution of the studies carried out by the Center.
- To ensure the compatibility of the activities promoted and carried out in the country with those developed by regional and international programs, and to participate in such activities.
- To provide technical assistance, consulting and specialized services, including multidisciplinary bibliographical searches in specialized databases to obtain bibliographical citations or full text of scientific periodical articles, patents and theses.

- Document delivery: CAICYT also has agreements with the most important document delivery centers abroad: the British Library (BL); the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS-INIST); and the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas – IVIC).
- To maintain a union catalogue of periodical publications in Argentine libraries on the web (Localization Service; Latindex Argentine Project) SciELO Argentine Project.
- To generate current and retrospective bibliometric indicators.
- To engage in joint projects with other organizations.
- To compile and develop bibliographical databases on the scientific production of CONICET researchers.
- To select core material from Argentine scientific periodicals.

Latin American Council for the Social Sciences

[<http://www.clacso.edu.ar/>;
<http://www.clacso.org/>]

The Latin American Council for the Social Sciences (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales – CLACSO) is an international non-governmental institution, created in 1967, that has formal consultative relationships with UNESCO. It now comprises over 100 research centers and postgraduate studies programs in social sciences from nineteen Latin American and Caribbean countries. It maintains:

- The CLACSO Virtual Library, which provides online access through the Internet to 3,652 full texts on social science studies from Latin America and the rest of the world.
- Bibliographical databases on social studies publications from Latin America and the Caribbean
- Databases of research in progress in social science studies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Argentine Library for the Blind

[<http://www.bac.org.ar/>]

The Argentine Library for the Blind (Biblioteca Argentina para Ciegos) is a non-governmental non-profit welfare organization that has been working for 79 years without interruption. It aims at fostering access to information and cul-

ture for people with visual problems, contributing to their full integration into society. In order to achieve this aim, it has several free services for Argentina and Latin America. It includes:

- The Braille Library of over 3,000 books in about 15,000 pieces, transcribed to the Braille system by voluntary copyists manually or using computers, and distributed all over the country and to neighboring countries on loan through free shipment by mail.
- The Talking Book (Libro Parlante) collection, which has about 980 titles of literature for children, young people and adults on 7,000 cassettes. The books are recorded by voluntary readers and distributed all over the country and to the neighboring countries on loan. Apart from literary texts, educational material of all levels may be made available on request.

Argentine Library Networks and Systems

Argentine Library Networks and Systems (Redes y Sistemas de Bibliotecas Argentinas – RECIARIA) is the network of Argentinean library and information networks. It was created in 1996 with the support of UNESCO.

The following networks are currently members of RECIARIA:

AGRIS – National Network for Agricultural Information

[<http://www.sagpya.meccon.gov.ar/>]

The AGRIS – National Network for Agricultural Information (Red Nacional de Información Agropecuaria) operates in Argentina within the sphere of the Secretariat for Agriculture, Farming, Fishing and Feeding (Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca e Industrias de la Alimentación) – SAGPyA) together with the Integrated Agricultural Information System (Sistema Integrado de Información Agropecuaria – SIIA). It is a cooperative system for information resources for the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors in Argentina. Since 1992, SAGPyA, through the Agricultural Document and Information Center, has been the National Center for the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

AMICUS – Network of Private Universities Libraries

[<http://www.amicus.udes.edu.ar/v>]

The AMICUS Network of Private Universities Libraries (Red de Bibliotecas de Universidades Privadas), founded in 1997, has 44 participating libraries from all over the country. It meets the information needs of teachers and researchers. It enables the exchange of sources of information and provides remote access to the corresponding databases of the national and regional libraries for higher education.

BIBLIOMED-ABBA – Network of Biomedical Library Associations

[<http://www.sai.com.ar/abba>]

The BIBLIOMED-ABBA – Network of Biomedical Library Associations. (Red de Asociación de Bibliotecas Biomédicas Argentinas – ABBA) was founded on 1 July 1999. It has 75 member libraries related to biomedical and chemical matters. Some of its members are from Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. ABBA was created in 1975 and at this moment it is working within the Information Society of Argentina.

BNM.CON – National Consortium of Educational Information

[<http://www.bnm.mcy.gov.ar/>]

The BNM.CON – National Consortium of Educational Information (Consortio Nacional de Información Educativa) includes:

- The National System for Educational Information (SNIE), which comprises the Centers of Documentation and Educational Information from 24 provinces of the country.
- The National Information Center of the Ministry of Education, which acts as a coordinating core.
- The National Teachers' Library.

JURIRED – Network of Legal Libraries

[<http://biblioteca.vaneduc.edu.ar/rbj/index.htm>]

In November 2000 the first Meeting of the Network of Law and Legal Studies Libraries (Red de Bibliotecas de Derecho y Ciencias Jurídicas – JURIRED) was held, which presented the

grounds and objectives of the network. At the second meeting in April 2001, the different JURIRED committees were set up.

REDINFOR – Network of Forestry Documentation and Information

[http://www.sagpya.mec.gov.ar/0-0/index/forestacion/forestacion/index_forestacion.htm]

The main objectives of REDINFOR – Network of Forestry Documentation and Information (Red de Documentación e Información Forestal) are: to facilitate the continuous flow of research results and their technological application in the industrial forestry sector; to enable communication to overcome the problems caused by distance; and to implement the corporate use of computing and human resources.

REMOS – Network for Retrieval and Protection of the Archives of Argentine Workers and Social Movements

[<http://www.ilo.org/public/spanish/region/ampro/buenosaires/info/remos.htm>]

REMOS – the Network for Retrieval and Protection of the Archives of Argentine Workers and Social Movements (Red de Recuperación y Protección de Archivos de los Trabajadores y de los Movimientos Sociales Argentinos) is a network of public, private, national, provincial and foreign institutions that preserve the historic records of workers and social movements. REMOS has a database with 100 records from institutions and/or individuals that have brief descriptions of the contents of the archives and how to access the information.

RENDIAP – Network of Documentation and Information for Public Administration

[<http://www.inap.gov.ar/srviciosdedocumentacion/rendiap.htm>]

The RENDIAP – Network of Documentation and Information for Public Administration (Red de Documentación e Información en Administración Pública) is a nationwide network that enables government, non-government and academic organizations to exchange documents and information about the public sector. It is coordinated by the Board for Studies and Information of the National Institute of Public Administration (Dirección de Estudios e Información del Instituto Nacional de la Administración

Pública) and consists of Cooperating Units from different government levels (national, provincial and municipal) and different sectors of society. RENDIAP's database consists of 34,000 documentary records, 16,000 provided by units nationwide and the rest by the Latin American Network for Documents and Information on the Public Administration (Red Latinoamericana de Documentación e Información sobre Administración Pública – REDIAP).

RENICS – National Network of Information on Health Sciences

[<http://www.bvs.org.ar>;
<http://www.ops.org.ar/redinfo.htm>]

The RENICS – National Network of Information on Health Sciences (Red Nacional de Información en Ciencias de la Salud) is a member of the BIREME Network in Latin America and the Caribbean. It comprises 27 national, municipal and private libraries that operate independently in the technical processing of bibliographical material and integrate and coordinate resources and services nationwide. Its purpose is to create specialized bibliography in health sciences. They jointly maintain the LILACS database and use the methodology developed by BIREME/OPS. RENICS started to operate in 1986 and at present comprises 40 information units of health institutions in the public, private and NGO sectors. It is also part of the project for the Virtual Health Library.

REPIDISCA-AR – Argentine Network of Information and Documentation in Environmental Health

[<http://www.cepis.org.pe/>]

REPIDISCA-AR – Argentine Network of Information and Documentation in Environmental Health (Red Argentina de Información y Documentación en Salud Ambiental) is the national member of the Panamerican network (REPIDISCA), part of the Regional System of Environmental Health coordinated by the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (Centro Panamericano de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ciencias del Ambiente – CEPIS). It has been operating in Argentina since 1982. It is specialized in unpublished primary documents – theses, reports, research work, etc. – in the field of health engineering and environmental sciences. Users can access the bibliographical search and document delivery services

through each cooperating center via the Internet.

The national network is coordinated by the National Water and Environment Institute (Instituto Nacional del Agua y del Ambiente – CARIS/INA) and is made up of the following cooperating centers:

- CEAMSE – Coordinación Ecológica Area Metropolitana Sociedad del Estado (Ecological Coordination for the Metropolitan Area, a state-owned company)
- AIDIS-Argentina (Argentine Association for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences – Asociación Argentina de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ciencias del Ambiente)
- INTI (National Institute of Industrial Technology – Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial)
- INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology – Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria)
- SAGPyA
- CNEA (National Committee for Nuclear Energy – Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica)
- CIS/UNR (Center for Sanitary Engineering, University of Rosario – Centro de Ingeniería Sanitaria, Universidad Nacional de Rosario)
- FI/UNLP (Engineering School, University of La Plata – Facultad de Ingeniería, Universidad Nacional de La Plata)

RIA – Artistic Research Network

[<http://www.espigas.org.ar>]

The RIA – Artistic Research Network (Red de Investigación Artística) was created in 1998 to develop a network of databases related to the visual arts in Argentina. The entities and their corresponding databases are as follows:

- Espigas Foundation – Fundación Espigas (database, 63,000 records – coordinating node)
- National Academy of Fine Arts – Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes (ANBA database, 5,000 records)
- Museum of Modern Art of the City of Buenos Aires – Museo de Arte Moderno de la ciudad de Buenos Aires (MAMBA Database)
- Research Institute Julio E. Payró of the Philosophy and Literature School of the University of Buenos Aires (Instituto de Investigaciones Julio E. Payró de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la UBA) (PAYRÓ Database, 15,000 records]

RRIAN – Regional Network of Information on the Nuclear Area

[<http://www.cnea.gov.ar/rrian>]

The RRIAN – Regional Network of Information on the Nuclear Area (Red Regional de Información en el Área Nuclear) is made up of fifteen Latin American and Caribbean countries to foster cooperation regarding nuclear information and any related topics by means of the common use of the resources of the information units.

SISBI – System of Libraries and Information of the University of Buenos Aires

[<http://www.sisbi.uba.ar/>]

The System of Libraries and Information of the University of Buenos Aires (Sistema de Bibliotecas y de Información de la Universidad de Buenos Aires – SISBI) consists of nineteen library units, including: the General Coordination; the central libraries of thirteen Schools of the University of Buenos Aires; the libraries of the Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires, Escuela Superior de Comercio Carlos Pellegrini, del Ciclo Básico Común (Basic Course for Graduate Studies), del Centro de Estudios Avanzados (Center for Higher Studies) and Hospital de Clínicas. The General Coordination of the system is subordinated to the Secretariat of Science and Technological Matters of the University of Buenos Aires.

SISBI was founded in 1985 under the direction of the Rector's Office of the University of Buenos Aires (Rectorado de la Universidad de Buenos Aires). It coordinates and cooperates with the libraries of the schools, departments and colleges of the University of Buenos Aires regarding library science matters.

SISBI users can make inquiries to five databases developed with MicroISIS:

- SISBI, the automated catalogue of the library; it collects full information on books and includes the analytical cataloguing of the periodicals on higher education
- HEMERO, the automated catalogue of periodical publications collected by the library from its foundation in 1942
- CCNUL, the National University Union Catalogue of Books (Catálogo Colectivo Nacional Universitario de Libros)

- CCNUR, the National University Union Catalogue of Periodicals (Catálogo Colectivo Nacional Universitario de Revistas)
- GUIABI, a directory of libraries, most of which cooperate with the National University Union Catalogue of Books and Periodicals.

SIDINTA – Network of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology Information and Document System of the National Agricultural Institute

[<http://www.inta.gov.ar/info/biblio/bases.htm>]

The Network of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (Red del Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria) Information and Document System of the National Agricultural Institute (Sistema de Información y Documentación del Instituto Nacional Agropecuaria – SIDINTA) was created by the National Board for the National Institute of Agricultural Technology on 16 June 1988. It works as the National Coordinating Center for CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information System) FAO's information system for research in progress.

More than 50 centers from all over the country take part in this system, as well as AGRIS, CAICYT and FAO. It publishes *Boletín Mensual del Servicio de Información Bibliográfica*, a monthly bulletin of agricultural bibliographic information.

UNIRED – Network of Economic and Social Information Networks

[<http://cib.cponline.org.ar:83/unired.htm>]

UNIRED – the Network of Economic and Social Information Networks (Red de Redes de Información Económica y Social) is the database of the network of networks for Argentine economic and social information. It is managed by the Professional Council for Economic Sciences of the City of Buenos Aires (Consejo Profesional de Ciencias Económicas de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires). It consists of 1 million bibliographical records. This collective catalogue is the outcome of the cooperative effort of more than 70 Argentine libraries. The UNIRED 2001 database is organized according to the Bibliographical Information System of the Economic Committee for Latin America (Comisión Educativa para América Latina – CEPAL). It consists of information units which are also part of the following networks:

- CACOBÉ – Union Catalogue of Enterprise Libraries (Catálogo Colectivo de Bibliotecas Empresarias)
- REDICSA – Network of Information for Social Studies (Red de Información sobre Ciencias Sociales)
- NAPLAN – National Network for Planning (Red Nacional de Planificación)
- VITRUVIO (Network of Art and Architecture Libraries – Red de Bibliotecas de Arte y Arquitectura) (<http://www.vitruvio.cpaupage.com>).

It was created in 1994 and covers architecture, art, design and urbanism. It consists of 51 domestic and foreign libraries, academies, associations, schools, professional councils and boards and other institutions.

Red COMENIUS – Network of Libraries for Higher Education of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires

[<http://www.buenosaires.gov.ar/educacion/docentes/bibleduc/comenius.php>]

The Network of Libraries for Higher Education of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires (Red de Bibliotecas de Educación Superior del Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires – Red COMENIUS), coordinated by the Teachers' Library of Buenos Aires, comprises the libraries of Higher Teachers' Training Schools (Escuelas Normales Superiores), Institutes of Higher Education (Institutos de Enseñanza Superior) and Tertiary Level Educational Centers (Centros Educativos de Nivel Terciario – CENT), and is subordinated to the General Board for Higher Education (Dirección General de Educación Superior) of the Secretariat for Education of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires (Secretaría de Educación del Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires).

Its general aim is to set up systematic cooperative relationships between the coordination and the libraries in order to pave the way for the optimization of the resources available in each library and make the libraries efficient in all aspects.

SID – Integrated Documentation System

[<http://sid.uncu.edu.ar>]

The Integrated Documentation System (Sistema Integrado de Documentación – SID) of the System of Libraries of the National Cuyo University

(Sistema de Bibliotecas de la Universidad Nacional de Cuyo), enables the network operation of the thirteen libraries that make up the system. It consists of the following libraries:

- Central Library (Biblioteca Central)
- Library of the Arts and Design School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Artes y Diseño)
- Library of the Agrarian Studies School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias)
- Library of the School for Sciences Applied to the Industry (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Aplicadas a la Industria)
- Library of the Economic Studies School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Económicas)
- Library of the Medical Sciences School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Médicas)
- Library of the Political and Social Studies School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales)
- Library of the Law School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Derecho)
- Library of the Elementary and Special Education School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Educación Elemental y Especial)
- Library of the Philosophy and Literature School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras)
- Library of the Engineering School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Ingeniería)
- Library of the Dental School (Biblioteca de la Facultad de Odontología)
- Library of Balseiro Institute (Biblioteca del Instituto Balseiro).

REDICSA – National Information Network for Social Studies

The National Information Network for Social Studies (Red Nacional de Información en Ciencias Sociales – REDICSA) has been in operation since 1987. The participants are jointly producing the *Argentina Bibliography for Social Studies*.

REBIFA – Information Network for the Armed Forces

The Information Network for the Armed Forces (Red de Información de las Fuerzas Armadas – REBIFA) of 135 libraries for the armed forces all over the country has been in operation since 1989. The main office is the Army Central Library (Biblioteca Central del Ejército) located in Buenos Aires.

Conclusions

The above outlook of Argentine libraries, though not profound, describes their origins and the development reached so far, but without dealing with the main issue which all of them face to a greater or lesser extent, namely, the lack or scarcity of economic resources, in comparison to other nations. This is a consequence of the lack of a national policy for libraries and scientific and technological information at national, regional or local level. Nevertheless, many libraries in Argentina have noteworthy features, such as collections of unusual richness. Argentina has also been a pioneer in the teaching of Library Sciences in Latin America.

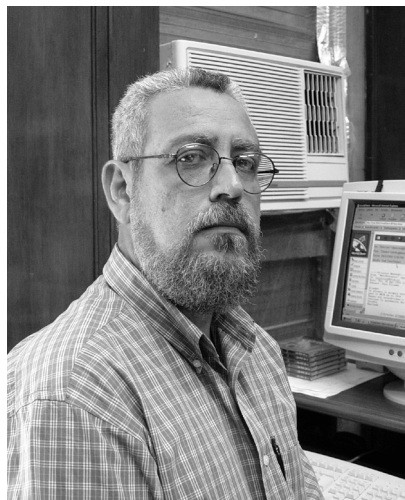
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National Libraries in Iberoamerica: from challenge to commitment

Eliades Acosta Matos



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Introduction

The Iberoamerican cultural community is one of the most homogenous groups in the world, but also one of the most diverse and plural communities. The chances of history led to the meeting of cultures as rich and geographically distant as the Indo-American, African, European and Asian in a common trunk. The resulting mix of races gave birth to a human universe with an unthinkable strength and variety where any difference needs to be neither stressed nor accounted for, since it is the norm and not the exception.

Its literature sets new trends whereas the literature from other latitudes shows unmistakable signs of weariness, and its musical heritage ravenously mixes all the styles and sounds that are beloved treasures for the region, its distinctive seals. The command of popular speech and rhythm, both in literature and music, assures the durability of Iberoamerican contributions to the universal culture.

With the hallmark of its identity, the culture of the region is genuinely universal, since, as Jose Martí said, Iberoamerican people truly believe, without any further explanations, that "Motherland means Human Kind".

With this background, the book and library world is part of the cultural material we use to grow and create. For us, Spanish or Portuguese speakers, or with indigenous or African-rooted languages and dialects, the institutions that preserve the document and bibliographical sources as well as those that are in charge of caring, organizing and disseminating them are worthy of all respect and veneration.

The massive destruction of cultural heritage, mainly of American manuscripts, as the result of the conquest and colonization of vast territories snatched from native inhabitants, for evangelizing or geopolitical reasons, are both an unpleasant memory and a badly taught history: in Iberoamerica we no longer bow to any cultural, literary or linguistic hierarchy but the ruling that arises from authenticity, genius or talent.

Even though, like in many other parts of the world, the librarians of the region complain about bad salaries, we feel people's permanent love and gratitude, when they come to us searching for knowledge or the pleasure of good reading.

Most of the national libraries in Iberoamerica, like in any other parts of the world, were created as the result of the redeeming wave of the French Revolution, when it was believed that enlightening the illiterate masses would assure happiness and wel-

fare and were essential for a good administration and an effective antidote against antidemocratic and upper-class despotism. Two centuries later we have realized that societies are much more complex than the model imagined by the French visionaries, and that creating libraries or being well intentioned is not enough to achieve happiness for all the world – although many achievements can undoubtedly be realized with libraries and good intentions, and it has happened indeed.

The Role of ABINIA

Created in December 1989, in the City of Mexico, the Asociación de Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica (Association of National Libraries of Iberoamerica) (ABINIA) is one of the most stable associations of the region and can show many important achievements in the consolidation of cooperative projects. In 1999, after a decision by its members, ABINIA changed its name to become the Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales (Association of Iberoamerican Countries for the development of National Libraries). It is an intergovernmental organization and association for the development of the national libraries of the region, in tune with the positive atmosphere for integration derived from the political and economic processes and the Summits of Iberoamerican Presidents that have been held over the last years. Its Executive Secretariat is in Caracas and the rotating Presidency is currently in Cuba for a two-year period.

The permanent agenda of the Annual General Meetings of ABINIA, and the Semi-Annual Directors' General Meetings are tied to the verification of the problems that may hamper the development of the Iberoamerican societies and the challenges they face. The main issues discussed include damage to bibliographical material, the lack of proper financing policies for the preservation of the bibliographical material by the different countries, the lack of modern legislation to protect the traditional and new functions of the national libraries, the need to train and assess the library staff, the crisis in the book industry and the cultural habits of the population – mainly regarding reading and the striking social and economic gaps that may lead to instability and government crisis, and to illiteracy and underdevelopment.

ABINIA has particularly discussed the urgent need to support mutual knowledge and regional

integration based on the promotion of the most important works and authors of each country and their bibliographical and document heritage. For that, it has been decided to launch a series of itinerant exhibitions to celebrate the 100th anniversary of writers of such stature as the Cuban Alejo Carpentier and the Chilean Pablo Neruda. As part of this integrating attempt, it has been decided to create the Iberoamerican and Caribbean Digital Library with UNESCO co-sponsorship, to reactivate the web portal of the National Libraries of Iberoamerica, to aid those countries that still have no web page, and to work on an array of cooperation projects such as the Novum Regestrum, the Iberoamerican Cartographical Catalogue and other projects aimed at creating collective catalogues of popular music, photography, essay-writing, newspapers, etc.

The introduction of new technologies in the work of the national libraries and the preservation of bibliographical material in danger, mainly in Central America, Bolivia and Paraguay, has caught ABINIA's attention and has enabled those institutions, with the participation of the countries in need, with ABINIA support and with the joint collaboration of experts from Chile, Cuba and Brazil, to make considerable progress so that their situation has improved and domestic specialized personnel have been trained to face the dangers successfully.

The 'Lisbon Declaration', unanimously approved by ABINIA member countries in the General Meeting held in October 2001, a few days after the terrorist attack on September 11, attests the flat rejection of any form of terrorism and war, whatever the reasons may be, and their disastrous consequences for culture, books, libraries, museums and cultural centers, and for human life itself. From this humanistic viewpoint, the member countries of ABINIA have continually spoken out, as recently happened in the World Library and Information Congress held in Berlin in 2003, to request respect for the cultural heritage of countries like Iraq and their sweeping condemnation of those responsible for the barbarous destruction of Iraq's National Library.

At this crossroads in development at the regional level and in each country, the national libraries of Iberoamerica are setting an example to their own societies and to the rest of the world of sincere unity in diversity and in the face of challenges and issues that, being shared, can only be confronted by acting together. Countries that are more developed, like Brazil, Spain, Mexico and

Portugal, are participating in this attempt with respect and a spirit of true collaboration alongside countries that are not so developed or that are undergoing temporary economic difficulties. The educational or professional achievements of some countries are a source of pride for all, as we all felt recently when we learned that the people and government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have successfully completed a literacy campaign which has enlightened over a million Venezuelan citizens.

Focusing on the strengthening of the international bonds, the ABINIA General Meeting held in Mexico City in November 2003 agreed to launch a host of initiatives to foster approaches to other associations related to the region, especially to IFLA. We are also about to create, with the support of the member countries and the government of Panama, a training center for librarians in Panama City, whose teachers will be regional experts.

Iberoamerica is the scene of huge book fairs, like those in Guadalajara, Buenos Aires or Havana, and where history feeds daily on the epic of peoples that, from the very silence of their libraries, struggle for a better future. The next IFLA General Conference, to be held in Buenos Aires in August 2004, will be a chance for colleagues from all over the world to travel to an ebullient region that, in raising itself from the shadows and leaving behind bitter moments of exclusion and injustice, has learned that integration and knowledge are the keys to the future.

The national libraries of Iberoamerica have this clear mandate from our societies and we shall respond to the challenge.

ABINIA Members in 2003

[Not included in the original article]

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[Source: ABINIA website: <http://abinia.ucol.mx/>]

Library Services for Latin American Indigenous Populations

César Castro Aliaga



César Castro Aliaga was born in the Andean province of Chupaca, department of Junín, in Peru. His professional career has been developed in the National Library of Peru, where he has worked in different directing positions, such as Director of School Libraries, Coordinator of the National System of Libraries and Technical Director. At the moment, he collaborates with the prestigious Spanish company BARATZ and participates as an active member of the Permanent Committee of the IFLA Section for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). His current research interests include the investigation and promotion of indigenous libraries.

Introduction

The number of Latin American indigenous people ranges between 40 million (Chuecas, 2003) and 50 million (Godenzzi 1996); that is, between 8 and 10 percent of the overall population. Unfortunately, there are no updated and reliable statistics on the overall population and even less on native languages or ethnic groups due to different reasons, such as the dynamics of indigenous groups and also the states' disregard of this population (Ricco Monge, 1996). That is the reason why it is so difficult for countries to have a thorough knowledge of the Latin American ethnic reality, which is currently diffuse and inconsistent for lack of basic research (Pozzi Escot, 1996). Nevertheless, at present indigenous people are taking a more active role in different spheres of social and political life, clearly as the result of a long and persistent struggle for their rights. This is the scenario in Latin America – a culturally and linguistically heterogeneous population, which far from being a factor of backwardness and underdevelopment, should be considered as a 'source of energy, a vital strength' that is a factor of development and integration, a factor of development and advance.

As is widely known, throughout history Latin American states have excluded indigenous peoples from basic public services, such as library and information services. Specifically, the library model or system promoted in most of the countries of the region, except for some isolated and limited experiences, has not favored indigenous people since it has been designed to focus more on the needs of cities and their surroundings than on the cultural and linguistic features of the different ethnic groups. This clashes with the social role of the public library service that is, for the community as a whole, the gateway to knowledge and information, in equal conditions and with no distinction of any kind. (UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994).

Consequently, indigenous peoples in most Latin American countries have practically no library services. This calls for specific and effective state measures in order to encourage the creation and expansion of suitable libraries according to the characteristics and needs of the population; libraries that treasure peoples' knowledge and learning and truly foster their integration into the information world, respecting their culture and language and, at the same time, promoting a true intercultural dialogue, that is to say, to establish the communication between cultures based on respect for the differences (Valiente Catler, 1996). In other words, it is necessary to set up an Indigenous Library rather than a Library for Indigenous People, a concept that has prevailed in most library projects. At the beginning of the 21st century and the dawning of the 'Information Society', the states have to set public policies that show true globalization of access to information and

knowledge, as the foundation for the peoples' social and economic development.

Indigenous Libraries in Latin America

Thanks to the successive international events organized by the IFLA Core Activity for the Advancement of Librarianship (ALP), such as the Meeting of Officers in Charge of Indigenous Libraries (Mexico, 2000) and the International Seminar on 'Access to Library and Information Services of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America' (Lima, 23-25 April 2003), we have learnt about a number of activities and projects related to the subject in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. These have included the following activities:

- Acknowledgement of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, of their ethnic and cultural identity; ownership and possession of lands, control and use of natural resources, among others through the adoption of the corresponding legal provisions, thus improving the existing legal framework.
- Revaluation of the ancestral collective knowledge of Indigenous Peoples as part of the intangible cultural heritage of the nations and in awareness of the need to record, preserve and spread such heritage.
- Expansion of intercultural bilingual education that incorporates the library concept into the educational process, so establishing the need to create and produce reading material according to the social, linguistic and cultural characteristics of the indigenous peoples.
- Organizational capacity of the indigenous peoples, which has enabled them to make some social and political claims.

We would like to thank IFLA and its ALP program, the Permanent Board of the IFLA Section for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (University Center of Library Research) (CUIB) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico) (UNAM), the foreign and domestic speakers and all the other sponsors, particularly the Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica (Amazon Center for Anthropology and Applied Practice) (CAAAP), that assumed the great responsibility of organizing the Seminar, the final report of which is currently circulating thanks to the invaluable support of IFLA/ALP.

Some Experiences

Some of the experiences reported at the Seminar are summarized below.

Bolivia

Servicio de Información Ciudadana (SIC) of the Centro de Documentación e Información de Bolivia (CEDIB) in Cochabamba

The Servicio de Información Ciudadana (Citizens' Information Service) (SIC) is one of the services of the Centro de Documentación e Información de Bolivia (Documentation and Information Center of Bolivia) (CEDIB), designed to furnish information to the different social sectors of the community, including the vast indigenous population, regarding issues such as fair trading, geopolitics, food assurance, environmental pollution, loans, antidrug policies, land and territory, political crisis, etc. To do so, the CEDIB has more than 3 million documents, printed and digitized, from which stands out the remarkable database called 'Historical Memory' with over 1 million newspaper articles and 52,000 bibliographical records. The CEDIB is a great information center for all the community, for training and action, for providing support to educational centers, trade unions, media and organized groups. It is also one of the main repositories of Bolivian documents and a permanent place to hold discussions on different current issues related to the domestic, national and regional community.

For a long time, the social and educational background in which the successful SIC works has been strongly influenced by the Intercultural Bilingual Education Program, which in the opinion of one of its promoters is nowadays one of the driving forces for advance, in which the indigenous individual learns to value his own culture and alien cultures as well, as far as this can foster his need for welfare and advance.

Chile

Bibliobús Regional de la Araucanía

In Chile there are several ethnic groups, the most numerous of which is the Mapuche people, followed by the Aimara and Atacameño peoples, among others. The Bibliobús Regional de la Araucanía (Regional Library Bus of Araucanía) is located in the Araucanía region, where the

Mapuche people dwell. The library bus is a project conceived by the Universidad de la Frontera and the Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos (Libraries, Archives and Museums Board) (DIBAM), which complies with the regulations on indigenous culture and education set forth in the Chilean Indigenous Act. The library bus, as an alternative for ordinary library service, serves sixteen places and provides a full range of activities, not only for libraries themselves but also for cultural purposes, such as concerts, storytelling and so on, where the key players are the indigenous people themselves, whose involvement enables them to produce material in their mother tongue. The library bus, conceived as a supplementary service of the traditional library, thus allows the Mapuche people access to information, which fosters their cultural identity and at the same time encourages the intercultural process with the non-indigenous population.

Colombia

Library Services in the Wayuu Community

In Colombia there are over 70 ethnic groups, with over 800,000 inhabitants. The supplementary services of the Banco de la República de Colombia (Bank of the Republic of Colombia) libraries in Ríoacha, district of La Guajira, on the border with Venezuela, are rendered for the Wayuu community, which is scattered both in Colombian territory (about 128,000 inhabitants) and in Venezuelan territory (180 inhabitants) and who mostly preserve their traditions and mother tongue. The libraries provide different services and activities in order to foster a true intercultural exchange between the *alijuna* or *criollos* and the Wayuu, between the Wayuu and the Alijuna, and even among the Wayuu themselves. Typical activities include: 'spending a day with the Wayuu', in which the Alijuna children learn about the Wayuu's traditions, customs, myths and legends, and 'We, the Wayuu', which consists of itinerant ethnographic exhibitions on different aspects of the Wayuu culture, such as traditions, customs and knowledge. All the activities promoted by traditional libraries in favor of indigenous people are true bridges for communication and understanding. This is a remarkable example of social responsibility performed by a state agency through the Banco de la República de Colombia.

Ivonne Gómez, in charge of the library in Ríoacha (capital of La Guajira district) has reported that a binational project for library services be-

tween Colombia and Venezuela will soon be launched in the vast Wayuu territory. This gives rise to understandable expectations since it could be a remarkable reference for other cases in which indigenous peoples are scattered throughout a vast territory that comprises more than one country and in which the library might foster harmonious relations.

Brazil

Biblioteca Indígena de Magüta

The Biblioteca Indígena de Magüta (Magüta Indigenous Library) is a self-managed model designed by the Tikuna indigenous people, in the Benjamín Constant municipality on the frontier with Peru and Colombia. The library, which is part of a museum, has over 3,000 volumes, of which 60 percent deal with indigenous matters. The library is managed by a Tikuna indigenous duly trained in library tasks. The library serves both the indigenous and the non-indigenous community but mainly plays a pedagogical role, giving support to a plurilingual Tikuna teachers' training center so that it is closely related to the production of reading material in the Tikuna language. The Magüta Indigenous Library is a space for preserving and spreading the indigenous peoples' knowledge and memory, in relation to the indigenous school; it can also be classified as a library specialized in indigenous matters, such as indigenous history, Brazilian folklore, spread of oral traditions, discussions on inter-ethnic relations, etc.

Indios Lendo

Indios Lendo (Indigenous People Reading) is an original project to promote reading that encompasses, on the one hand, material production like the 'Indians as seen by Indians' collection and, on the other hand, book exchange and a range of activities to encourage reading in order to foster indigenous cultures. The project is managed by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Thydêwá in Bahía.

Guatemala

Enlace Quiché Project

Domingo Camajá Santay, from Guatemala, reported to the Seminar about the well-known project called 'Enlace Quiché' (Quiché Connection), carried out in El Quiché district. This project uses both information technologies and the

production of reading material in indigenous languages, inserted in the Maya's cosmovision as far as oral communication and the generation and transmission of ideas are concerned. Since one of the targets is to foster and develop the cultural identity of the Maya and *ladino* students, the project works hard on raising the sensitivity of the players involved in intercultural bilingual education, such as teachers, students and parents. The main obstacle for this ambitious project is fundraising, which nowadays relies to a great extent on international technical assistance. The extension and continuity of this kind of project are severely hampered by the high maintenance costs of information technologies, which always exceed national resources.

Ecuador

Abya-Yala Publishing House

'Abya-Yala', the Ecuadorian publishing house for native languages, was set up 28 years ago as a cultural project, producing and publishing books with the participation of young indigenous people like the Shuar, who are located in the south of Ecuador and are related to the Aguaruna and Huambisa peoples from Peru. Since then, Abya-Yala has released over 1,500 works; it has had a big impact on both the indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. It has also managed to standardize native languages in order to ensure their survival; it has promoted the intercultural exchange among the indigenous peoples and the non-indigenous domestic society. It should also be pointed out that the publishing house has made a great effort in the rescue and spread of indigenous culture through the Centro de Documentación Indígena (Indigenous Documentation Center) in Quito. In the coming years, Abya-Yala faces the challenge, along with the effort to standardize native languages, to achieve for native languages the legal status that Spanish has, so that native languages could be used like Spanish in the media, the Civil Registry and any other activity of social life. The other great challenge is the creation of readers and authors in native languages, working together with the Intercultural Bilingual Educational programs.

Mexico

One of the countries of the region which is promoting the development of indigenous peoples is undoubtedly Mexico. For instance, over the past year more than 2 million books in native languages have been published, to be distributed for

free among indigenous communities' schools as part of one of the social policies that fosters 'equality in education' (Excelsior, 19-08-2003). However, support to indigenous libraries is far more extensive, as can be inferred from the activities briefly described below.

Pueblos Indígenas en la Sociedad de la Información (Indigenous Peoples in the Information Society)

Pueblos Indígenas en la Sociedad de la Información (Indigenous Peoples in the Information Society) is a proposal drafted by an interinstitutional working group as a guideline for future actions to be promoted in favor of indigenous libraries, including: respect for and participation of indigenous populations in the formulation of national policies; indigenous information and knowledge; information and communication technologies in the indigenous populations.

Support to Indigenous Libraries

The Dirección General de Bibliotecas (General Libraries Administration), the entity that controls the Mexican public library system, is promoting the production and distribution of bibliographic material in native languages, as well as the delivery of computing systems for indigenous libraries.

Programa de Formación de Recursos Humanos para Bibliotecas Indígenas (Human Resources Training Program for Indigenous Libraries)

The Programa de Formación de Recursos Humanos para Bibliotecas Indígenas (Human Resources Training Program for Indigenous Libraries) has been designed by the Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (University Center of Library Research) (CUIB) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico). The proposal is based on acknowledging the lack of library and information services that fit adequately with the linguistic, cultural and social characteristics of the indigenous peoples and answers to the urgent need to provide adequate human resources training in order to respond to that reality. The Program comprises three curricula issues: indigenous community, communication and language, and library studies. These issues in turn are subdivided into seven academic areas: human communication; user studies; sources of information; technical organization; administration and management; methodology

and research; community and indigenous studies. It has been designed as a distance learning bilingual program in the native language and Spanish, for Mexico and other countries of the region. This program is the first academic attempt at the regional level to face systematically the issue of training personnel for indigenous libraries.

Greater Visibility of Indigenous Libraries

Two other recent activities in Mexico related to the need to make indigenous libraries more visible are important references for the region:

- The Mexican International Conference on Public Libraries formally included a 'Work Table' related to the indigenous library
- The latest Guadalajara International Book Fair, which took place from 29 November to 7 December 2003, assigned a stand for 'Information Resources for Latin American Indigenous Communities', where books published in the native languages spoken in Mexico and other countries of the region were exhibited.

Venezuela

Bolivarian Schools Network

This is a project that encompasses indigenous libraries. These are a necessity for the intercultural bilingual school and as such should have indigenous users, a varied intercultural bilingual heritage including 'living books' and, like the schools in which they are located, should be community-oriented. A network of 42 schools of the Wayuu (37) and the Añu (5) ethnic groups has been organized following a series of steps that range from community diagnosis to the conception of a community pedagogical project which includes a library. Depending on the characteristics of the community, the library can take different forms: 'bibliolancha', 'bibliobongo', 'bibliomovial', (see below), or permanent libraries. In the latter, the premises shall be built according to the indigenous architectural style. A key issue for the library and the educational process is the production of material in native languages, including the 'living books', or people who do some work in the community and who are recognized as sources of knowledge.

An experience worth noting is related to the library services implemented as a supplementary service of the Biblioteca Pública Central (Central Public Library) of the Amazonas department and designed by María Elena Zapata, Livio Rangel

and Milagro Medina from the Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela (National Library of Venezuela). This comprises three elements that in practice complement each other to take library services to indigenous peoples. The 'bibliolancha' (book launch) is, as its name implies, a 16-foot craft with a 115 horsepower engine that carries book boxes, audiovisual equipment, etc. and is thus a service aimed not only at lending books but also at promoting different activities for the populations that dwell on the banks of the Orinoco river. The 'bibliolancha' is complemented by the 'bibliobongo', which is a kind of roofed canoe to carry collections and equipment to expand the services rendered by the 'bibliolancha'. Lastly, the 'bibliomovial' is adapted to serve the indigenous communities of the countryside that are very difficult to reach. The three services complement each other.

Peru

Recovery of Ancestral Cultures

This includes activities such as:

- Revalidation of Andean food cultivations as an alternative for food security and as a recovery of the cultural identity of indigenous peoples, which takes place in the province of Vilcasuamán, Ayacucho, under the Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú 'Chirapaq' (Center for Peruvian Indigenous Cultures 'Chirapaq').
- Learning of Aguaruna as a second language, as a mechanism for fostering indigenous cultural identity and the creation of a comparative basis for learning a second language, thus encouraging the intercultural dialog developed by the Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica (Amazon Anthropology and Practical Application Center) (CAAAP).

Information and Communication Networks for Rural Development (Huancaavelica)

This project of the Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Capacitación de Telecomunicaciones (National Institute for Telecommunications Research and Training) (INICTEL), will connect ten rural libraries through a platform that will enable them to share content related to the production activities of the area such as agriculture and farming, promote trading activities and support tourism and the formal and non-formal educational system of the communities involved, mostly Quechuas. The project seeks to strengthen a previous project of the National Library, which

was performed under the auspices of UNESCO between 1998 and 2001.

Red de Bibliotecas Quechuas (Network of Quechua Libraries)

This project, proposed by the Colegio de Bibliotecólogos del Perú (Association of Library Science Students of Peru) and the Prelatura of Ayaviri (department of Puno), consists of the production of audio documents in the Quechua language to be disseminated by means of parochial and municipal libraries of the area. It is supported by IFLA/ALP.

Ashänika Net

This is one of the first experiences in the use of information and communication technology (radio and Internet) by the indigenous peoples, in this case the indigenous community of Marankiari Bajo, in the Central Forest. It involves different bodies which agree to share the risks, which is the basis for supporting the project.

Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica (CAAAP). Lima

The Center has a specialized library with bibliographical material, a photographic archive and maps on Amazon matters, as the result of research and development projects that have been carried out for over 25 years.

Centro de Documentación e Información del Instituto de Investigación de la Amazonía Peruana (IIAP), Iquitos

The Center of Documentation and Information of the Institute for Research of the Peruvian Amazon specializes in the management of information resources related to Amazon matters, particularly regarding socio-economy, Amazon men and women, Amazon peoples and communities and ecotourism, among others.

Centro de Investigación de Lingüística Aplicada (CILA), Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos

The library of the Center for Research on Applied Linguistics is one of the very few specialized in matters such as indigenous populations and Andean and Amazon linguistics. In 1997 the library received the valuable private collection of Peruvian researcher Inés Pozzi-Escot as a donation.

Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú 'Chirapaq'

The Center for Peruvian Indigenous Cultures 'Chirapaq', based in Lima with and decentralized offices in Ayacucho and Vilcashuamán, is devoted to research, promotion and dissemination of the cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples.

Some Conclusions

- There is an increasing interest in Latin America, at both the governmental and the civil society levels, in the situation of the indigenous populations, as can be seen in the measures being taken to care for the basic problems faced by indigenous peoples.
- One of the concrete actions being taken, among others, is to expand and strengthen the Intercultural Bilingual Education Program, that has proved to be an excellent tool for setting up and developing library services in indigenous populations.
- Although projects and activities related to indigenous library services in the region have progressed, they are still not sufficient to cater for the needs of an indigenous population that, in countries like Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil, represents a high percentage of the overall population.
- In most countries in the region library activities for indigenous peoples have not yet been incorporated in a national or regional library plan that comprises consistently the efforts made by the state, civil society and community-based organizations.
- It is necessary to have more information on experiences related to the development of library services for the indigenous peoples of the area, in order to launch an effective program of information and cooperation exchange. The activities and mechanisms proposed in previous events have not yet produced the expected results.

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We would like to finish this article by expressing our gratitude to those people who have given us their unwavering support by sharing with us information about their own countries, like José Bessa from Brazil, Juan Argüelles from Mexico and all the other speakers from the different events organized by IFLA/ALP in our region on indigenous libraries.

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Information Technology in Central American Libraries

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Introduction¹

From our black beaches to the largest barrier reef in the Western hemisphere and from lowland jungles to highland cloud forests and active volcanoes, six republics and one parliamentary democracy occupy a strip of land of about 500,000 square kilometers and share a common past of indigenous cultures, colonialism, and periodic political and social unrest. Each Central American country is fiercely independent and proud of its own customs. Creole, English, Garifuna, and Maya languages coexist with Spanish, which is spoken by the majority. The per capita GDP is as low as USD 2,500 in Honduras and Nicaragua, and as high as USD 8,300 in Costa Rica, but within each country there are stark economic and cultural contrasts. Half of the population lives in urban areas, where modern districts neighbor very poor zones. And half of the population lives in rural areas, where traditional communities may seem ages away from the hectic pace of industrialized zones.

One also finds great contrasts in the supply and demand of educational services. About 15 million children should currently be in school, as education is by law free and compulsory for those age ranges throughout the region. In reality, the quality of the schooling systems is uneven, and coverage is far from universal. Private schools offer an attractive alternative to the free public schools run by governments. But for many families,

especially in the poorest areas, the real cost of sending the children to school is making do without their help in agricultural or other work. Consequently, illiteracy rates in the region tend to be high. Literacy rates are lowest (less than 80 percent) in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador, and highest (above 90 percent) in Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama. Excellent institutions of higher learning exist in each country and offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in almost any field imaginable. But demand for higher education is low (FLACSO, 2002).

Access to Library Services

A full range of library services, from excellent to nonexistent, exists throughout the region. Searching the published literature on *Library and Information Science Abstracts* (LISA) yielded about 50 references by people from the region. The *IFLA Journal* has not published any related articles since 2001, when Estela Morales described Costa Rica's information system efforts in her paper on Latin American information policies (Morales, 2001, p.31). Google searches for 'libraries in Central America' yielded about 40 hits, counting only those websites produced by institutions from the region.

We do not know even approximately how many libraries exist in the region.² Ten years ago, a rough estimate suggested a total of about 1,000 libraries holding less than 10 million volumes (Pasch 1995, p.98). Today, in our opinion, that estimate should be doubled. But we found no updated data, and we can only venture the following as our personal appreciation of the observed situation and trends. The majority of libraries have very small collections (between 1,000 and 10,000 volumes). Certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and educational institutions may have medium-sized collections (10,000 to 100,000 volumes). National libraries and a handful of universities have large collections up to a few million volumes. Public and national libraries are under funded. For example, the Biblioteca Nacional 'Luis Cardoza y Aragón' is always portrayed as a proud part of Guatemala's cultural heritage, but it is barely surviving. It holds over 460,000 volumes, and according to a recent newspaper story it has an annual budget of about USD 2,500 for both day-to-day library operations and acquisitions. The Swedish government contributes an additional USD 60,000 per year for book buying. Salaries for 40 em-

ployees are budgeted separately. The director's monthly salary amounts to USD 450. Because "in our country, schools do not have their own library services, the National Library has been converted into a school library, and most of its users are children and young adults from primary and secondary schools" (Sánchez Rosales, 2004). Public school libraries are rare indeed in Guatemala and Honduras, while efforts in Costa Rica and El Salvador are starting to bear results. Private schools are finding that library and computer services offer them a competitive edge over other schools and are starting to invest more in information services. Computers are used to some extent for cataloging and for Internet activities, less so for database access or other electronic services. Research centers (many run by NGOs) and university libraries generally provide the best library services in the region. Many use technology to its fullest and some deploy home-grown applications. In fact, libraries and information centers in Central America were among the first users of personal computers, CD-ROM readers, modems, and database software in the region (Pasch 1995, p. 98). Thus librarians make efforts at every scale in order to incorporate the new technologies into their work. But, because contrasts abound, it is hard to speak of a 'general situation' of IT use in Central American libraries.

Access to Information Technology (IT) in Central America

The Latin American and Caribbean region, with 6 percent of the world population, "accounts for 3 percent of world IT investment, whereas North America, with 5 percent of the population, accounts for 45 percent of world IT investment" (Callaos, p. 244). Although IT growth in Latin America is higher than the world average, Central America has consistently lagged behind the rest of Latin America in the number of PCs per capita (.002 vs. .02 in 1995) and Internet hosts (.0001 vs. .0005) (World Telecommunication Indicators, 1999).

Mata and Fuerst identified Guatemala and Costa Rica as "the leading users of IT in Central America" (1997, p.174). They surveyed business managers in Guatemala and Costa Rica and found that they share key issues in regards to IT use: training of information systems personnel, support and training of users, standards and control, and disaster recovery. These issues are operational in nature, compared to the more strategic

issues identified by managers in countries like Australia and the United States. Interestingly, among the issues shared by managers in all countries, one stands out: the *use of the data resource*. Information within the organization, Mata and Fuerst assert, “is growing in size, complexity, and value. Despite this, it remains largely unrecognized, inaccessible and underutilized” and they conclude that it is necessary to create a “climate ... throughout the organization that values the data resource as a corporate asset” in order to advance to the strategic stage (p.22). While this is no news to librarians, it does bring up an important point: as businesses in the region invest more and more in IT, they may come to appreciate the importance of data as a resource, providing an opportunity to focus their attention on the services that libraries already offer.

There is some level of software production in all Central American countries. Guatemala’s leading software developer employs 50 computing specialists for research and product development in banking software, and in 2004 hopes to close deals totaling USD 10 million at the regional level (Hernández, 2004). El Salvador also has a few companies doing computing consulting and Panamá is establishing tax incentives for IT companies. Thanks to a long-term commitment to education and aggressive recruitment of high tech investment, “Costa Rica has the highest level of software exports per capita in Latin America” (Rodríguez-Clare, p.79). Electronics companies (e.g., Intel, Remec, Sentionics), medical device manufacturers (e.g., Abbott, Baxter), and service centers (e.g., Western Union, Procter & Gamble, Adobe) have set up shop there, employing local, educated manpower. The collaboration of companies, especially Intel, with technical universities has led to improved teaching and increased the demand for information services. Thus Costa Rica has moved far ahead in the production of IT.

Internet Access

The first BitNet node in the region was setup at the Universidad de Costa Rica in the early 1990s. In 1991, the Organization of American States (OAS) launched the RedHUCyT initiative, principally to connect member states to the Internet. The OAS encouraged governments to set up educational networks and connections, providing equipment, and connectivity via the PAS satellite (Pasch and Valdés, 1996). By 1996, all coun-

tries had some kind of Internet access and about 25 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) operated in the region (Pasch, 1996). Today, an estimated 600,000 users chat, send email, and surf the Web (*Information Please Almanac*)². Telecommunications policies allow private companies to resell connectivity services and to set up Internet cafés, where thousands of people pay as little as USD 0.50 per hour (Eunjung Cha, 2002). NGOs, educational, and business groups have established Telecentros or Infocentros throughout the region. Most of these centers offer Internet access and basic training.

Non-profit connectivity initiatives have been successful, but usually end up seeking financial self-sufficiency. An example is LINCOS, created in 1998 as an initiative of the Costa Rica Foundation for Sustainable Development (CRFSD). Each community that participates in the project gets its own ‘LINCOS unit’ – a discarded shipping container that is refurbished according to community needs to house a variety of equipment, including audiovisuals, environmental analysis equipment, telemedicine machines, an FM radio station, and audiovisual materials on health, agriculture, astronomy, adult and child education, and computers with Internet access. In its second generation, LINCOS efforts concentrate on integrating the use of technology to resolve specific problems and strengthen community development through local resources and strengths as well as comprehensive training in available technologies. A business agent handles the sale of services, in order to make the project financially sustainable. LINCOS has worked with sixteen communities in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic and has received the Alcatel award in technology innovation. Although LINCOS units are not traditional libraries, technology and information are the raw materials that the program uses to improve communities’ quality of life.

Web access has also opened the doors for a new and inexpensive kind of publishing. As a result, domain registration has flourished. The first four rows in Table 1 show the number of Internet domains registered in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua by type of domain. Commercial domains are by far the largest segment. Educational domains make up about 3 percent of the total. But many institutions, especially businesses, prefer to register a domain that is not country specific (e.g., ‘.com’ instead of ‘.com.gt’). The country registries therefore are only part of the total registrations.

Type of domain	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Nicaragua
Commercial	4,150	3,226	2,033
Organizations	210	542	205
Education	154	86	67
Others	336	535	136
Total country registry domains	4,850	4,389	2,441
Domains per 10,000 population	12.3	3.1	4.8
Overall domains	7,279	11,710	3,231
Overall domains per 10,000 pop.	18.4	8.2	6.3

Table 1. Registered domains, by country.

Access to Computers and Internet in Libraries

Given educational levels, the availability of library services, access to IT and the Internet, one would not think that libraries could or even should make acquiring computer equipment a priority. But libraries are offering IT access to their users. For example, the Panama National Library has access centers at six public libraries and at the National Library. At the small town of Panajachel in Sololá, Guatemala, Ann Cameron, a visitor from the United States, founded the Biblioteca Popular. The library enjoys strong support from the community: after a fire caused the total loss of the collection, the community rallied to rebuild it and today it owns 12,000 volumes. Ten computers are used primarily for practicing computer skills and for preparing homework assignments.

Foundations, large and small, are active in library projects in Central America and are encouraging the use of IT. For example, Proyecto Bibliotecas Guatemala (PROBIGUA), a Spanish language school in Antigua, Guatemala, received an Access to Learning Award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to install two or more computers in fourteen Guatemalan libraries, plus USD 250,000 to open five community computer centers. The Riecken Foundation builds libraries in small towns in rural areas. The Foundation operates twelve libraries in Honduras and six in Guatemala. Collection sizes range between 1,000 and 3,500 volumes. Each new library comes equipped with three new computers, a printer, and a digital camera. Software includes the Microsoft Office suite, and educational CD-ROMs. Visitors use the computers for homework, personal matters and access the Internet in communities with phone lines.

International governmental support programs are also behind improving libraries' IT access. In

1972, an earthquake damaged the Biblioteca Nacional Rubén Darío building in Managua, Nicaragua, but with help from the Swedish International Development Agency, the library was able to relocate, increase its holdings, install modern library automation, compile a national bibliography, and expand public library service in the interior of Nicaragua. The Swedish project has supported the region's national libraries, including the creation of websites for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Internet access has presented many new opportunities for librarians to help their users get the information they need. The Biblioteca Mark Twain at the Centro Cultural Costarricense Norteamericano in Costa Rica offers basic Internet training courses every Friday afternoon for the general public and for students of all levels. Another course teaches them how to use online databases, as well as electronic encyclopedias and databases. Library orientation for freshmen at Ave María College of the Americas in San Marcos, Nicaragua "includes a brief exposure to Internet training, including how to access our library services available on our website" (García, 2004). Six computers are connected to the Internet, and one is dedicated to catalog searches. More than 25 students started using the new wireless access in 2004.

IT also helps librarians expand their professional connections. E-mail, websites, and chatrooms provide us with new and inexpensive ways to stay informed and contact colleagues from everywhere. The Bibliotecólogos-CR mailing list was created by José Ruperto Arce in 1999 (Arce, 2004). Bibliotecólogos-CR was originally oriented to a Costa Rican audience, but because of its interesting forums and discussions, librarians from other countries have also joined. As of March 2004, Bibliotecólogos-CR has 787 members from Latin America and elsewhere. This is

a considerable number, especially since on the same date, IFLA-L reports 1,304 subscribers *worldwide*.

Professional associations in Central America have naturally created websites to inform their associates about their mission and upcoming events. Of special note is the Asociación de Bibliotecarios de El Salvador website, where one finds the association's mission, events, and a list of library websites in El Salvador. Salvadoran librarians are in fact so enthusiastic and well connected that in March 2004 they hosted the 1^{er} Encuentro Centroamericano de Asociaciones de Bibliotecarios, sponsored by IFLA, LAC and ALP.

Library Websites

We tried several approaches in order to locate as many library websites as possible. General directories like Yahoo! and dmoz only point to a handful of sites. LIBWEB lists 6,600 pages from libraries in over 115 countries, but as of early 2004 it included only five libraries in Central America. Libdex, a worldwide "index to 18,000 libraries" listed about a dozen. The Latin American Network Information Center's (LANIC) library page only lists fourteen links related to Central America. Across all these resources, the same libraries appear over and over again. We ended up combining the sites listed on LANIC's Higher Education page with the entries in the Academic Research Resources category for each individual country. This, plus the results from searches on Google and the links collected from the directories mentioned above, yielded roughly 260 sites.

After reviewing about 200 websites, it was possible to see that often, the library is not mentioned on the institutional homepage, but it may appear under 'Services' and in the company of lab descriptions, job offerings, student welfare, photocopying, and cafeterias, thus hinting at the position of the library in the overall institutional structure.

The quality and content of the pages varied widely. Some sites had clearly been abandoned, such as the one that was 'last updated' in 2000, or the site that gave three contact email addresses that no longer exist. Some libraries seemed not to have been involved in the creation of their pages, which consisted of a brief description with perhaps a photograph or two of their building. We

Type of software	Systems in Use
Locally developed	GLIFOS, MicroIsis developments, SIAB, scripting (ASP/Access, php), spreadsheet controls, HTML
Smaller imported systems	Follett, Glas, Logicat, Microcat, SIABUC, SIRSI, TKM, Winnebago
Larger imported systems	ABSYS, Aleph, OLib7

Table 2. Library software in use at libraries in our sample.

also saw many informative pages. For example, the library page of the Colegio Centro América in Nicaragua has a simple design and presents the complete history of the library building, its collection, personnel, and services.

Beyond brochure-like descriptions of facilities and services, library webpages offered three kinds of services: online catalogs of paper and electronic holdings, access to databases, and access to locally published digital content.

Web-based Catalogs in Libraries

The most common service that we found was a catalog of holdings. In some cases, the library did not have a page, but there was a link to the searchable library catalog directly from the institution's homepage. In addition to the web-based catalogs, many libraries have automated systems that are available through local networks but are not yet on line. Table 2 illustrates the variety of systems being used.

We found thirteen libraries that listed their holdings in the form of static HTML pages. These are smaller collections, thus the lists of titles are given in alphabetical order or by subject. Other locally developed controls include simple scripts that search a flat file or a database and return the results in the form of a web page. Academic libraries with big catalogs use systems like Aleph, ABSYS and Olib7.

We also found eighteen web-based catalogs that use Micro CDS/ISIS, also known as MicroIsis. This software was developed by UNESCO and has been freely distributed since the early 1980s. The importance of MicroIsis cannot be under-

estimated. María Cristina Ocón (2004), who is an official MicroIsis distributor in Costa Rica, says that in her country all librarians are aware of the existence of MicroIsis, because for small libraries it is an economical option. In terms of database management, MicroIsis is very flexible, but some training is needed for learning how to set it up. This has created a market for specialized consultants, including many Central American librarians who are now experts in programming and installing related applications. For example, Sistema Integral de Automatización de Bibliotecas (SIAB) started in 1994 as a MicroIsis application. Néstor Uriel Ramos (2004), from Impacto Creativo, says that over eleven institutions in El Salvador use SIAB version 4.0, and that SIAB has been totally re-developed for a web environment, using PHP and MySQL.

For those libraries who have a computerized catalog, but who cannot for technical or connectivity reasons post it on the web, MetaBase is a good option. MetaBase is a project that Costa Rica's Fundación Acceso started in July 2000 with funding from the World Bank's InfoDev Program (Lo & Flores, 2000). It is now a self-sustaining service. Its main function is to import the bibliographic records from member libraries and documentation centers, combine them into a central repository and make them searchable through the project's website. In early 2004, the MetaBase website contained 2,552,266 bibliographic records from 80 databases. Users can limit their searches to a particular database or do a combined search. Participating centers must have Internet access, and their collections must focus on gender, education, health, environment and natural resources, law and administration of justice, public administration, or social sciences. Because of MetaBase, the region has become more visible for the rest of the world and has increased the synergy among libraries in Central America that are now communicating and sharing information and resources (Flores, 2004).

Local developments of fully integrated library systems (ILS) designed to take full advantage of the Web are rare. We are aware of only one such project.³ In 1993, when Windows 3.2 and the first versions of the Netscape browser were just reaching the market, the Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM) in Guatemala developed its own ILS based on the latest technology. The new system was designed at the library and programmed by a local software development company (Arias and Pasch, 1995). From the start, it was built as a fully integrated system. Today,

GLIFOS is web-based and totally designed to take advantage of the XML standard. It is relatively inexpensive and as of early 2004 is in use at over 40 installations in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panamá. One advantage is that it provides a 'copy cataloging' feature, which automatically imports and translates the fields from a selected bibliographic record, for example, from the US Library of Congress online catalog. This helps the cataloger save time in technical processing. The cataloger can also include digital materials in the same database as any other materials, thus providing a single point of access to all collections. The UFM uses this feature to integrate hundreds of freely accessible e-books into its catalog.

Database Access

The second service available through library websites is database access. We found less than 20 university, research or school libraries that subscribe to at least one database, such as ProQuest or EBSCO Host. Most libraries do not have the resources to pay the annual subscription fees, frequently run into the thousands of dollars.

The Sistema de Bibliotecas, Documentación e Información (SIBDI) at the University of Costa Rica provides access to a variety of paid, low cost, and free databases. Over time, SIBDI built a valuable collection of indices and abstracts in print. Today, electronic versions of these resources are available, including 36 databases in CD format housed at the Luis Demetrio Tinoco Library. Via the SIBDI website, access is provided to ProQuest, EBSCO Host and ISI Web of Knowledge among others. In Central America, SIBDI is the only Latindex associate, and eleven other universities have also joined HINARI. Six institutions participate in JSTOR: three universities and the central banks of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. In April 2004, the UFM also subscribed to the Oxford University Periodicals full-text journal database. This is possible through a special free or reduced-cost subscription offer available to low-income countries.

Educational institutions with strong links to the United States generally have better database access. For example, Florida State University-Panama has access to FSU electronic resources, including ABC/CLIO and ABI/INFORM, to Lexis-Nexis, PsycInfo, WorldCat, and more. The

library website of the Instituto Centroamericano de Administración de Empresas (INCAE), located in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, has access to a total of seventeen full-text databases plus 15,000 e-books via eBrary. In addition, an interface to five databases provides access to about 19,000 records for case studies and articles.

Digital Publishing

Libraries pioneered CD-ROM publishing in Central America. In 1992, the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in El Salvador published their national bibliography database as part of a University of Colima CD-ROM (Arteaga, 1994). The first CD fully produced in Central America was the CRIES (Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales, based in Nicaragua) that contained twelve databases, including the catalog of publications at CRIES, a directory of Central American research projects in social sciences, and two databases covering politics in Nicaragua (Stewart, 1994).

One of the most focused digitization projects in the region is based at the Instituto de Historia Nicaragüense y Centroamericana (IHNCA) in Nicaragua. The project started in 1995 with an urgent need: providing access to 19th century newspapers in the IHNCA collections. Microfilm did not deliver either clear or complete images and a decision was made to digitize the collection instead. By early 2004, sixteen Nicaraguan and eleven Salvadoran titles have been published.

Librarians have also used e-mail as a publishing tool. The Regional Project for the Development of Central American Micro Enterprises was supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the International Labor Organization (ILO) from 1996 to 1999. Its main purpose was to provide small businesses in rural Central America with relevant political and economic information. An office was opened in the capital city of each country, to serve the local small business associations. These offices also served as intermediaries between small businesses and the main project office located in Costa Rica.⁴ This group produced a monthly bulletin, which was e-mailed to each association. Local staff made copies and sent them on by bus to the rural areas. At the end of year four, the project was incorporated into the Sistema de Información sobre Microempresa en América Central (SIPROMICRO).

In this day and age, the most efficient way of publishing is via the Web. Ten of the websites we found offered access to small (a few dozen to a few hundred) digitized document collections in HTML or in PDF format. Examples include the Biblioteca Nacional Ernesto J. Castillero, with its program of document conversion and 150 digitized books; the Centro Virtual de Información of the Promotora del Comercio Exterior de Costa Rica, offering manuals and guides for commercial exporters; the Biblioteca Virtual at the Universidad de El Salvador, with theses, articles and books; and the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC) also with its catalog of digitized graduation theses.

An important multinational effort is BIREME's Biblioteca Virtual de Salud initiative. By early 2004, institutions in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras were involved in this health project through libraries or groups of institutions. A key part of the virtual health libraries development is the access to full text resources. This is known as the ScIELO component, for 'Scientific Electronic Library Online'. Libraries are also using BIREME's Sistema Cooperativo de Acceso al Documento (SCAD), which allows libraries to pre-pay for copies of journal articles and then obtain the materials from cooperating institutions.

An effective combination of texts, images, and databases working together to create a valuable resource is found in the so-called 'UBIs' developed by the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBIO). This institute was founded in 1989 in Costa Rica, and seeks to produce and make accessible knowledge about biodiversity. The UBIs were created to disseminate information about animal, plant, insect and fungus species in Costa Rica through a friendly Web interface. UBIs include taxonomical information about each species found, the name and date the species was discovered, common names, recollection method, natural history of the species, use, myths and legends related to it, reproduction methods, and bibliographical references. In order to facilitate the user's interaction with the information and their understanding of the material, UBIs use simple language, pictures, diagrams, drawings and a map of the country with the localization of the species. The UBIs are interesting not only for their information display, but also because the INBIO has developed a set of modules that allow taxonomists and specialists in the field to work more efficiently, saving time and resources. For example, a tax-

onomist in Costa Rica discovers two new species of butterflies, so he types the information into the database, including a picture of the butterflies. A specialist in the field that collaborates with this project, and who could be working anywhere in the world, reviews and confirms the taxonomist's information. The specialist publishes the UBI on the Web, making that information immediately available to the public. Thus, the database is easily enriched by taxonomists around the world in a way that is much faster than any traditional methods.

In addition to textual or image resources, a rich-media digital library operates at the Guatemala's Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM). Since July 2001 the UFM's New Media department has been building a streaming video archives of classes and lectures. As of March 2004, over 220 hours of original video content are freely accessible via the New Media website. The content of the videos is analyzed to produce a table of contents synchronized with the video. So if someone wishes to move to a particular topic, he simply clicks on that topic from the table of contents and the browser starts playing the video from that point. All kinds of materials (PowerPoint slides, images, full texts, links, notes, credits, references, etc.) can be synchronized to audio or video contents. Such enriched content is being used to offer online courses that are part of regular on-campus programs (Pasch, 2003).

All of these resources are only a small sample of the richness of content that is available in our region and illustrate the ability of local information professionals to organize and present information on the Web.

Conclusions

Central America's library statistics are not readily available, but our region is generally perceived as 'information deprived' for two reasons: a low level of library services and a low demand for such services due to illiteracy and poverty. But while many libraries lack the means or motivation to embark on IT-related projects, many others have found ways to cooperate and find support from local or international sponsors who appreciate their potential. Such initiatives are growing, thanks in good part to growing availability of technology and the faster spread of information and opportunities via email and webpages.

In addition to descriptions of physical location and services, three main features are available at this time from Central America's library webpages: online catalogs, database searching, and digital publishing of local resources. We found that a variety of software packages are in use and in development for library automation and for web-based catalog searching. The various projects that are underway for digitizing and organizing local materials are great opportunities for learning and for enriching the knowledge of all librarians in the region – that is, if this knowledge is shared among us. Thankfully, the Internet makes it easier than ever to communicate via websites and email, the main tools we used to gather the information presented here.

This paper has described only a fraction of the IT-related library projects underway in Central America. It presents a snapshot of the situation as early of 2004. We are aware that the information we managed to collect is incomplete, and that possibly nobody is collecting it methodically. For this reason we encourage our readers to submit any library websites or important statistics and reports to LANIC, so that others may find them in the future.

Acknowledgment

Thanks to Sean Hale for his collaboration in the revision of this article.

Notes

1. Visit <http://www.chanfle.org/diana/iflaarticle/websites.html> to see the list of websites mentioned in this article.
2. The authors would appreciate hearing of studies that have measured the availability of library and library services in the Central American region. Please email gpasch@ufm.edu.gt with related links or bibliographic references. All information will be referred to LANIC for possible inclusion in its directory of library-related Latin American resources.
3. Data for Internet users is for 2002, may be underestimated, in our opinion. See www.infoplease.com/almanacs.html
4. One of the authors, Grete Pasch, worked on the initial design for this system and is a principal consultant for the company distributing it. See www.glifos.com
5. One of the authors, Diana Miranda, was involved in this project.

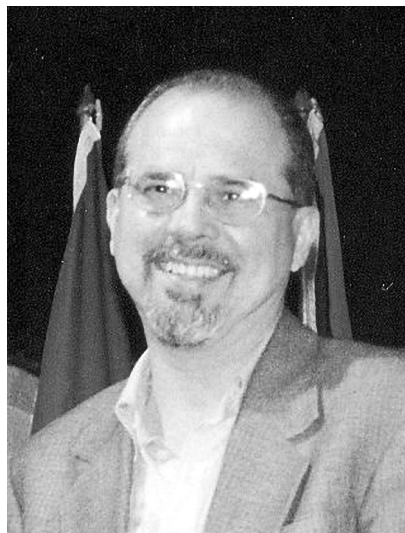
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The Need for Research and Publishing on the Hispanic Caribbean

Victor Federico Torres



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Introduction

The poor image of librarians is probably a worldwide phenomenon. We are often underrated and stereotyped. Many people that use libraries firmly believe that a librarian's functions consist of checking out books or other library materials and continuous shushing in the reading rooms. The faculty status of those academic librarians who enjoy it is often debatable. It is common to find that the only librarians who enjoy recognition are those at library schools – on account of their teaching status, not because they happen to be librarians. Teaching is clearly one of the areas that enhance a librarian's professional development and image. Another area is research and publication. As Alemna suggests: "Research and publications not only enhance the prestige of the profession, it also contributes to the body of knowledge in the profession" (Alemna, 1998).

Contrary to common belief, research and publishing are not the exclusive arena of academic librarians, though this group as a whole tends to be more involved as a result of the demands for tenure and promotion imposed by academia. The fact is that research and publishing are a way of advancing the profession by sharing our experiences, projects and resources with colleagues. According to Gary W. White, it is a fulfilling endeavor that can bring personal benefits and gratifications such as:

- increases the author's reputation and that of the institution to which the author belongs
- fosters an acknowledgement of subject expertise among colleagues
- increases the author's understanding of trends and research in the field
- enhances opportunities to develop further research projects
- increases marketability when seeking a promotion or a new job. (White, 2001: 343)

Publishing and Research on the Hispanic Caribbean

Research and publishing by librarians is particularly urgent in the Caribbean, especially when we consider that the region falls far behind the work conducted in the developed nations. Even though the following comments focus on the Hispanic Caribbean, I suspect they hold true for other language groups in the region. Undoubtedly, the most common medium in which to publish is the journal or magazine, but while there are more than 200 English-language publications in the library field alone (Schroeder and Roberson, 1995: 1), Latin American library journals fall short, particularly in the Caribbean. The findings of a recent bibliometric

study concerning publishing in library science in Latin America and the Caribbean revealed that:

- the majority of papers were published in Brazil by Brazilian authors, followed by Mexico, Cuba and Colombia
- twenty-five authors from five nations (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Cuba) dominate the publishing output
- 82 percent of the articles were published in English or Portuguese (Licea de Arenas et al., 2000: 47–50).

The prevalence of articles in English and Portuguese clearly indicates that journals in the field in Spanish are numerically inferior even though this is the language of the majority of the nations in the region. From the list of journals that published most articles by Latin American and Caribbean authors, only one represents the Hispanic Caribbean. This title, *Ciencias de la Información*, is published in Cuba. Two additional titles can be added if we include circum-Caribbean areas: the *Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecología* (Colombia) and *Revista AIBDA* (Costa Rica), two of the most enduring and well-known library journals in Latin America.

Considering that the bibliometric study conducted by Licea de Arenas and others was based exclusively on searches of three indexes that are not produced in the region (*Library and Information Science Abstracts*, *Information Science Abstracts* and *Library Literature*), a search in *Latindex*, the database of journals published in Latin America and the Caribbean, was conducted. A subject search under 'librarianship and information science' in *Latindex* clearly shows the predominance of titles from Mexico and Argentina, while other nations lag behind. Venezuela, for instance, has only two titles; one of them is a bulletin (*Boletín INFOLAC*) and the other (*Opación*) is actually an interdisciplinary journal.

In addition to *Ciencias de la Información*, Cuba boasts three long enduring titles: *Acimed*, *Actualidades de la Información Científica y Técnica* and the prestigious *Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional José Martí*. Oddly enough seven titles from Puerto Rico appear, but two of them have ceased publication and a third is an electronic journal with only one issue available (2004). Of the remaining titles only two of them have been incorporated in *Latindex Catalog*: *BIBESCO*, the official journal of the Association of School Librarians and *Acceso: Revista Puertorriqueña de Bibliotecología y Documentación*, an annual

publication of the Sociedad de Bibliotecarios de Puerto Rico. To be included in the catalog, titles need to meet international standards. On the other side of the spectrum there are no holdings from the Dominican Republic, a fact that certainly hinders publishing among library practitioners in that country.

Another search was conducted in *INFOBILA*, a database devoted exclusively to library and information science in Latin America and the Caribbean, that has been an ongoing project since 1986 at the Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (CUIB) at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Since *INFOBILA* is a retrospective, as well as current database, other short-lived journals were found but we were unable to identify additional current titles.

On the other hand, very few books are published on libraries and information science in the Caribbean or on specific Caribbean nations. This paper does not intend to address the pitfalls of book publishing in the Caribbean, a topic broadly discussed at the XXI ACURIL Conference held in Caracas under the theme 'Le livre dans la Caraïbe: systèmes de production et de diffusion', but it can be said that Caribbean publishers are not interested in this topic, which is deemed unmarketable. Hence, library organizations, universities, professional groups and other non-profit institutions need to play an active role in publishing books dealing with libraries and information science in the Caribbean.

An excellent example for the Hispanic Caribbean is the publishing output of UNAM's Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (CUIB). Besides publishing a regular journal since 1986, the Centro has been publishing on a continuing basis books related to libraries and library science, including books on collection development and reference work that can be used as textbooks. This effort is particularly noteworthy given the dearth of books on library science in Spanish.

What to Research or Publish

Strategies

Those new to conducting research will find useful the following strategies that Gary W. White suggests for librarians embarking on a research project:

- read the professional literature in librarianship
- seek the advice and assistance of mentors
- subscribe to relevant discussion lists
- attend conferences and presentations
- interact with colleagues from other institutions
- keep a list of possible research topics (White, 2001: 344–345).

White also encourages the calls for papers or conference presentations that provide opportunities for many librarians to present a paper and publish it subsequently in the proceedings. Unfortunately, this is hardly the case in the Caribbean.

A case in hand is ACURIL and its annual conferences. Traditionally the president of the organization issues invitations to speak at the association's conference. Seldom does the associations issue a call for papers where members and other interested parties could find a venue to expose their work or research. This practice differs greatly from other associations, both library and non-library related, who actively seek the participation of their members to configure the conference program. Such is the case of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC), Mexico's Library Association and their annual Jornadas Mexicanas de Biblioteconomía, an excellent example of members' participation where librarians and library students from all over the country present their papers.

Topics

Library research does not need to be a scientific or a highly intellectual endeavor. As a librarian you frequently engage in a study of your practice, conduct a user study or develop a new project in your library. Librarians in the United States who engage in research focus primarily on practice-related topics in search for answers to immediate problems (Watson-Boone, 2000: 85–86). As Alemna suggest, library research enables librarians to have a “clearer view of the problems of the profession and the means of solving them” (Alemna, 1998).

A recent survey conducted by the editors of the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* among their Board members provides an array of topics for research. Among the many topics cited we have selected a few that might be relevant to all types of libraries in the Caribbean and could provide valuable insights to the issues and concerns that we are facing:

- building consortia across geographic and public/private institutions
- licensing and other issues surrounding accessing information remotely
- digital libraries
- partnerships with other professional associations and organizations
- distance learning and distance education
- handling of serial subscriptions in the future
- resource sharing and interlibrary loan
- library-based entrepreneurial enterprises (Heron and St. Clair, 1997: 171–174).

Reference tools

Besides conducting a study or research, another, more pragmatic approach consists of publishing reference sources dealing with Caribbean topics. As we are aware, many of the reference sources on the Caribbean are published in the United States and, with the exception of Cuba, their interest in and coverage of the area tends to be limited. Reference librarians can be very resourceful in identifying needed sources. Edwin S. Gleaves conducted a survey in 1987 among Latin American bibliographers in United States libraries who identified 35 areas from Latin America and the Caribbean in need of reference sources (Gleaves, 1987: 226–229). From this list and from my personal experience, these are my suggestions:

Book reviews

This area has been neglected since Antonio Matos suspended the publication of his *Guía a las reseñas de libros de y sobre Hispanoamérica. A Guide to Reviews of Books from and about Hispanic America* in 1990. The fact that the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)* ceased to include reviews in their recent volumes calls for a source to fill this gap.

Subject bibliographies

Another function that librarians have engaged in regularly is the compilation of bibliographies, either to complement an exhibition, to distribute in library instruction or simply to support a topic of current interest or based on library patron needs. Most bibliographies are handouts, i.e. in-house publications, thus they are lost for all practical purposes. These bibliographies, if limited to materials found in the library, are of limited interest because of their restricted scope, but were they to be enhanced and preferably annotated, they would become publications in the accepted sense. In-depth bibliographies that contain cita-

tions from national sources are needed, especially to cover Caribbean topics that have attained recent prominence. These can be an author, a political party or movement, a politician or a public figure. Librarians from the Hispanic Caribbean have used their bibliographic skills and their access to unique collections to publish subject bibliographies – most notably Araceli García Carranza, Cuba's foremost bibliographer, who has published more than fifteen titles that include several bibliographies on Cuban history, art, literary figures as well as Cuban periodicals indexes. This is the kind of work that needs to be done for the rest of the Hispanic Caribbean nations.

Indexes

Reference departments or collections have maintained indexes, such as the index to the local newspaper, an index of biographies of local public figures, or an index of journals. Many researchers have benefited from these sources without publicly recognizing the librarians who contributed to these finding aids. These sources, once updated, if necessary, and edited, provide a venue for a publication, or perhaps a database that can be mounted on the web.

Encyclopedias

Both national and regional encyclopedias are needed. The titles available are out-dated. Encyclopedias in Spanish that deal with popular culture topics, in the tradition of the abbreviated *Caribbean Companion: The A-Z Reference* and the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Latin American and Caribbean Cultures* are missing. The Cuban state agency, Citmatel, has produced a multimedia encyclopedia on CD-ROM that combines facts about the island with themes related to popular culture such as music and cinema, *Todo de Cuba/All About Cuba*. Indeed, current technology can provide a venue for this kind of work.

Directories

These need to be up-dated and expanded to include a full description of libraries and research centers in the region, preferably on each island, their activities and personnel.

Guides to special collections

Hispanic Caribbean libraries have extensive resources that need to be made accessible to patrons outside the home patron base of the host libraries. Such collections have the potential to

provide excellent opportunities for research and publication. These include special collections of manuscripts, documents or other materials belonging to a well-known figure. A guide detailing the collection's origin, acquisition, organization, and a description of its contents, especially if these collections are not cataloged, can serve as the basis of an article for publication in a professional journal. A recent work that exemplifies this is Margaret D. Rouse-Jones' *Guide to Manuscripts, Special Collections and Other Research Resources for Caribbean Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus Libraries* (2003). This book, with five sections for separate categories of materials, provides access to UWI's West Indian and special collections, precisely the type of access needed for collections in the Hispanic Caribbean.

Research and publishing by librarians does not have to be exclusively on libraries or library sciences. The juxtaposition of your information skills against your subject expertise or interest can be the basis for a useful publication. This was my experience with my book, *Narradores puertorriqueños del 70: guía biobibliográfica* (2001), a resource guide devoted to ten contemporary Puerto Rican fiction writers. Working as a reference librarian at several collections of the Library System, University of Puerto Rico, I realized the need for a reference source focusing on the contemporary authors who were read and studied by high school and university students but were not included in the national literary histories or outdated encyclopedias. With this research need in mind and my literary background, I completed a biobibliographical source that includes a critical essay on each author contributed by an academic specialist. Other Puerto Rican librarians who have published on a topic of their expertise include Flor Piñeiro (children's literature) and Mariano Morales (law).

Where to Publish

Publishing in the Hispanic Caribbean is limited, as we have pointed out, by two factors: the reduced number of journals in the field and the apathy of commercial publishers to publish library-related topics. It is therefore imperative that library organizations and associations take the lead and publish or sponsor publications that cover topics relevant to Caribbean libraries and librarians. The Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) has published several titles that deal exclusively

with the Caribbean such as *Cuba, from Colony to Revolution, a Bibliography of Microforms; Haitian Publications: An Acquisition Guide and Bibliography*, and *Serial Publications Available by Exchange: Caribbean Area*. Even though ACURIL has published in the past, a more aggressive, systematic approach is needed in order to facilitate research and publishing. This could include the establishment of an editorial committee with the specific commitment of editing and publishing the works of ACURIL members. Several committees, including a bibliography and an indexing committee, existed in the past. These need to be reactivated or perhaps the current interest groups could incorporate as part of their activities the identification and development of needed reference and bibliographical tools on Caribbean topics.

Library organizations and libraries also need to strengthen publications at the national level. The Sociedad de Bibliotecarios de Puerto Rico has done its share with the publishing of a professional journal but much more could be done. We need desperately a directory of libraries on the island and a guide to special collections. A new project for the publishing of the national bibliography, long overdue since the *Anuario Bibliográfico Puertorriqueño* ceased, is currently under way at the Library System of the Rio Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico by Haydeé Muñoz Solá. The National Library of Cuba has published extensively in spite of the economic crisis that the island faces and is the only Hispanic Caribbean nation that has maintained a national bibliography.

The limited number of journals should not hinder the research of Spanish-speaking librarians in the Caribbean. There are, fortunately, other titles outside the Caribbean that accept contributions in Spanish. Some of them are from Spain and are published electronically. They include: *Anales de Documentación*, *Sociedad de la Información* and *Biblios*. Other titles published in Latin America, all of them current, are *B3: Revista Electrónica de Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información* from Chile and *Investigación Bibliotecológica* from México.

Information about Research and Publishing Opportunities

Librarians who want to conduct research using resources not found on their libraries or expand the research conducted at the local level might

want to consider the opportunities of library travel grants offered by several US universities and institutions. These grants are exclusively to conduct research in the institutions' collections and cover travel and living expenses for short-term periods. Among the institutions with a Latin American and Caribbean collection that have been offering these grants on a continuing basis we find the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, the Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, the John Carter Brown Library, the Newberry Library, and Princeton University.

Two excellent sources to find out about these and other similar opportunities are the Latin American Studies Association Newsletter (*LASA Forum*) through its regular section, research and study opportunities, and the *SALALM Newsletter*. The former also has a section on publications that regularly announces invitations from new journals or book editors to contribute an article or essay. Many publishing opportunities are also posted on the Internet, especially by discussion groups.

Recognition and Support

Research and publishing cannot occur in a vacuum, thus institutional support is essential. This support can encompass release time and funding options but, most importantly, it must foster the interests and research skills of library practitioners, especially if we consider that many library practitioners lack research training. An excellent example of this kind of support is the Library Research Committee established at Auburn University. Its members, all selected by their peers on account of their professional contributions, provide other librarians much needed support that will enable them to embark on a research project. This includes counseling, advising, and revision of research proposals as well as editorial guidance. The committee also sponsors research-related seminars and symposia, and is responsible for disseminating information about research and publishing opportunities (Lee, 1995: 111–112). This initiative has been followed by librarians of the University of Puerto Rico's Rio Piedras Campus who recently created a working group that is studying ways to foster institutional support that will increase research among librarians.

This support needs to go hand in hand with recognition. It is a well-known fact that the prizes

awarded to publications, at least those dealing with the Spanish-speaking world, overlook bibliographies and other reference sources. Categories for these and other library-related studies are non-existent outside our own field. We need to create the mechanisms to recognize our own work. The Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials created in 1982 the José Toribio Medina Award in recognition of outstanding contributions by SALALM members to Latin American Studies. The recent creation of the Sherlock-Macmillan Award by ACURIL is a welcome addition. It is expected that similar prizes will be established at the national level, perhaps covering other categories, to promote research and publishing by librarians from the Caribbean.

Note

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Knowledge Management: intellectual capital and social capital. An approach for Latin America

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Knowledge Management: New Interpretative Logics, New Practices

Since its first conceptual development and publication in 1995 by Nonaka and Takeuchi, in combination with the vast literature published since then, knowledge management constitutes a milestone in the literature and the discursive range of the organizational theory, development and organizational behavior, communication sciences, computer science, telematics and to a certain extent, information sciences, wherein I include library science, archives management, and documentation management.

My fundamental point is that the processes linked to information management, and to the professional and organizational businesses that derive from it, have come to a breaking point where new theoretical and epistemological approaches, as well as new practices, are emerging.

From this perspective, knowledge management constitutes an emerging mode of both a theoretical and practical approach to information. And this is occurring before the exhaustion of the rational supports and practices inherent in the rationalist, positivistic framework where information science has traditionally been – and still is – supported to a great extent.

Thus, knowledge management is responding to a new interpretive logic and organizational practice, the novelty of which is, on the one hand, the changes in epistemological support of the mode of thinking and the new technological logics and, on the other, the current world reconfiguration due to two high impact processes: globalization, which permeates economic, social, political and cultural processes, and the existence of reticulated knowledge.

Globalization refers to

the process of worldwide interconnection made possible thanks to network communication and information technologies, which constitute communication circuits and spaces in which the exchange of merchandise, values, knowledge, power, and culture, take place. (Caballero, 2001:1)

The notion of reticular knowledge, says Caballero, “comes from the lattice of multiple intelligences distributed in the network”. The knowledge reticulation process refers to the connectionist nature of communication processes as opposed to linear communication, which also allows knowledge to flow in all directions. Unobtrusiveness is given by “the flow of knowledge, communication, and interchange that takes place in virtual environments from different physical spaces” (Caballero, 2000: 214, 223).

Furthermore, knowledge management constitutes an organizational logic and practice in line with the social, economic, political and cultural developments that are the consequence of the new “techno-economic paradigm” (Pérez, 2000, 2002) based on information and telecommunication technologies and the globalized world of the information economy. In this new techno-economic paradigm, productive processes are intimately associated with the intensive use of information and knowledge supported by teleinformatic technologies, and not by the intensive use of energy, raw materials, and mass production.

The new techno-economic paradigm based on information and communication technology comes along with new organizational principles: traditional pyramidal, hierarchical and centralized organizational forms based on vertical functional compartments and rather authoritarian managing styles with rigid communication channels give way to flexible organizational forms, multi-functional units with a strategic core. Communication becomes interactive and flexible, horizontal as well as vertical (Pérez, 2000). Human resources, rather than being considered a cost, are considered integral, valued as human talent.

The ever-changing, highly turbulent and uncertain complex realities require emerging and concomitant organizational practices such as: knowledge management hand-in-hand with the principles of the learning organization; competitive intelligence and environmental scanning; technological prospective; research and business alliances; benchmarking; interactive communications; and online and real-time information flow. The organization of the information, information availability, relevance and pertinence, access, retrieval and use become highly strategic and support organizational and entrepreneurial innovation and continuous improvement processes.

Changes in the epistemological support of the mode of thinking imply that, from the epistemic model of modernity and scientific rationalism, we travel towards a hermeneutic interpretive vision of reality, and to a complex, systemic, and trans-disciplinary thinking.

Information sciences, particularly in the context of Latin American countries and without ignoring their diversity and their different levels of development, need to further explore a new epistemological logic to approach, from new angles, the complex and multiple aspects of reality, going beyond the boundaries of the disciplines of

library science, archives and documentation management. It is necessary to introduce other disciplines with a vision of lattices, and from adverse and complementary points of view to provide answers to the strategic organizational and social demands in the frame of the social development processes.

In this sense, in the document: ‘Programa: Ciencias de la Información. Mención Gerencia del Conocimiento. Nivel Maestría (Program: Information Sciences. Mention: Knowledge Management. Level: Master Degree)’ of the Universidad del Zulia in Venezuela, we read:

It is understood that presently, the knowledge and information management are aspects that do not only interest the librarian, the archivist and the documentation analyst, but also any other professional conscious of the current historic moment, wherein information, knowledge, telematic technologies and continuous learning are the essential components of development. (Portillo et al., 2004: 14).

Libraries, as well as archives and documentation centers, and the consequent professional practice of librarians, archivists and documentation analysts, have been dominated by the positivist organizational logics of modernity, which have been based on the technical processing and organization of the physical and tangible document.¹ This has allowed an important and consolidated development of the management of the tangible documentary record and library processes and services. However, the current professional reality requires, without postponement, the development of competencies related to the management of the ‘tangible’ nature of document processing and organization, but also new competencies to manage the ‘intangible’ nature of the informational processes, linked to the intellectual capital of organizations and the social capital of nations.

In this sense, information and communication technologies have a decisively strategic and organizational transformation character when they are conceived as vehicles of creation, innovation and value adding processes. They are far more than vehicles of operational library processes.

The introduction of any technology should be conceived in the context of an integral strategy, that is, a strategy of “internal development of changes, equilibriums and interrelationships”

(Rojas Vera et al., 2001:61). The objective is to pursue the transformation of 'passive' information – information per se does not create or add value – into 'active' knowledge; this is knowledge that is made operational and is implemented to obtain value-creating and value-adding results.

Moreover, knowledge management involves the design of an information management philosophy encompassing the creation, identification, capture, organization, storage, retrieval, transference, access, analysis, and evaluation of information with technological mediation. Information management is, then, conceived as a subsystem of knowledge management processes.

A Proposal for a Knowledge Management Model: The Organizational Infoarchitecture

What does a knowledge management strategy imply and how does it work in an organizational context? I propose an integral model for information and knowledge organization which I have called 'Organizational Infoarchitecture' in the context of knowledge management strategy.

Knowledge management is conceived from a systemic perspective: organizational reality is thought of as a complex unit of linked relationships. Our working definition of knowledge management strategy refers to the deliberate effort of an organization to create, develop, keep and use its intellectual capital to achieve the organizational strategic objectives.

The intellectual capital – and the intangible knowledge assets – become the most important assets of the organization and its single most important competitive advantage. The new source for value creation is intellectual capital.

In this perspective, intellectual capital constitutes the key concept of knowledge management and encompasses three components:

1. Relational capital (or customer capital) refers to interpersonal and inter-institutional relationships. It is the organizational people network (who knows what), the allies and the alliances.
2. Structural capital refers to the knowledge assets of an organization; its knowhow, policies, procedures, intellectual property, technological systems, explicit information, databases and projects, which should become, and should be preserved as, a corporate technical memory,

institutional memory or social memory. It should therefore be accessible to the organizational, institutional or social community. Information management, as a process subsystem, and the active insertion of the information professional and his or her technical competencies, gain particular relevance in this sphere of organizational intellectual capital.

3. Human capital refers to the people and their talent – understanding 'talent' as the people's ability to learn in a continuous manner and to materialize their potential knowledge, their experience, their generic and technical competencies, their abilities to innovate and to grow and, above all, their commitment and ethical disposition.

From this knowledge management conceptual perspective, intellectual capital with its three components is conceived as a triangular model to denote their interdependence. The basis of the alignment with its strategic intention is the axis of the organization, always in accordance with continuous improvement, innovation, new models and business expansion objectives.

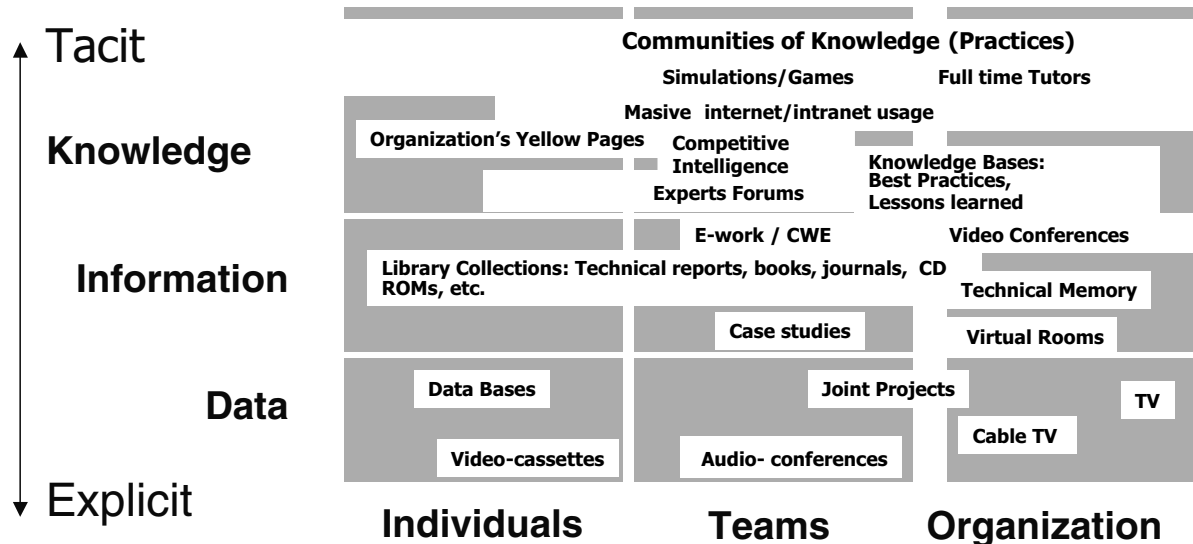
The proposed perspective implies knowledge management and the principles of the learning organization. It is based on the premise that the intellectual capital is built by developing continuous learning in individuals, teams and the organization, guided by a driving strategic leadership and by using systems to capture and share learning in order to create and manage knowledge effectively in a continuous change process (Marsik and Watkins, 1999).

The knowledge management model ² presented here is based upon the distinction between explicit knowledge and tacit knowledge, which was developed and widely embraced by Nonaka and Takeuchi in 1995. Explicit knowledge refers to tangible and structured knowledge: it is contained in documents, reports, papers, patents and publications in all formats, in best practices and lessons learned. Explicit knowledge is also embedded in the organization's processes, products and services.

Tacit knowledge is intangible and refers to expertise, experience and skills – the individual's knowhow, that is, what the individual subjectively knows and learns. The qualitative process that goes from tacit knowledge to explicit knowledge and vice versa is continuous and iterative and is possible through cognitive and socialization processes.

Organizational Infoarchitecture

Knowledge Management Strategy: Some examples of products, tools, and services.



S. Sánchez Vegas. (2000-2004) / PDVSA CIED, 2000.

Chart 1.

The feasibility of an organization's intellectual capital to create and add value is a consequence of this process and relationship between explicit knowledge and tacit knowledge, and they in turn intersect the three components of intellectual capital. The structural capital, though, is the material platform of knowledge. It organizes explicit knowledge, makes it available and provides it with a frame of action through legal procedures, information systems, technological platforms, communication information networks, database access and so on. It also establishes the material and procedural bases for the qualitative transit of information as raw materials to desirable results and value. Information is transformed into valuable knowledge through this process and these relationships.

I define an Organizational Infoarchitecture as a knowledge environment. Thus, the Organizational Infoarchitecture is based on technological platforms and network systems (digital platforms, developments in collaborative working environments, data retrieval and information storage systems, hypermedia, artificial intelligence systems, simulation systems, and others) making

communication and information exchange between individuals and teams possible to pursue a wide range of activities (participation in communities of knowledge, virtual forums, database queries, information analysis, preparation of technical reports, research and development, etc.) associated to the knowledge processes in organizational contexts. Chart 1 illustrates some of the products, tools and services that may integrate an organizational infoarchitecture in the context of a knowledge management strategy.

In summary, my main point is that regardless of the size or complexity of organizations and their technological capacity, learning and knowledge processes are deliberately created by the organization when it creates a learning and knowledge environment. I refer to this as the Organizational Infoarchitecture. It is fitted to the needs of individuals, teams and the organization.

It is in this context that the information professional is reconfigured in his/her role as active participant in information management and information processes. This emerging professional role requires new competences, such as:

- Information Creation
 - design of contents that effectively answer people's information requirements – organizational and 'local' and specific requirements – to support their decision-making processes.
- Information Identification
 - handling of methodologies for information audits in order to detect information usage (what information is used and how it is used), critical information requirements, needed strategic information, information resources mapping (Soi i Aumatell, 2003) and information needs assessment.
- Information Organization
 - meta-information design, the design of taxonomies to structure knowledge generated in the communities of knowledge (communities of practice) and forums; design of knowledge maps pointing to people as well as to documents.
- Information Analysis
 - infometric analysis to detect trends and tendencies to support environmental scanning and competitive intelligence; information synthesis; news and special topics analysis; state-of-art reviews and previous art analysis; generation of associated products: technological alerts; executive summaries; position papers; monitoring reports; competitors' strategies; market trends; technology mapping, etc. (Marrero and Aponte, 2003).
- Information Services Design
 - expertise associated with activities related to the evaluation of the information processes; exploratory and advanced information searching skills to support decision-making processes. Conceptual portal design aimed at providing strategic information and information services from an integral and systemic perspective to support the organization's or the community's information needs and requirements, as well as information exchange and knowledge creation processes.

Considerations on Globalization, Social Capital and Knowledge Management

In this last part, I would like to approach some aspects related to the knowledge management and social capital in the context of globalization and development.

When linking knowledge management – as an organizational paradigm – with the nation's social development objectives, the notion of so-

cial capital, Guédez says, is a synthesis option. Knowledge is translated into personal experiences and into tangible developments when understanding, trust, mutual respect, civic spirit, and ethical conscience are found in their base, and development without social capital is not possible (Guédez, 2003).

The notion of social capital becomes particularly and significantly relevant from the perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean. Development is conceived of as expansion; expansion is understood as the participation domain of different social sectors, and the expansion of their interaction sphere.

This is not a question of the development notion conceived merely from an economic rationality. It is conceived from political, social and cultural spaces of society, as well as from citizen participation and democratic parameters. And regarding democratic parameters, democracy is not limited to the State and the government, but to the participation of citizens, the construction of social equity and the consolidation of a public-spirited society. In sum, the citizens' exercise of their human rights and civil duties.

My intention is to emphasize, in accordance with Mato et al. (2000), the complex, plurivalent and uncertain character of globalization, and the unequal forms of information flow and interconnections that take place in the real world.

I attempt to take a critical distance from the Manichean postures on globalization and on social access to information and communication technologies. These postures oscillate between being too optimistic – biased by the irresistible and supposedly homogeneous benefits resulting from globalization and the display of information and communication technologies – and the extreme and apocalyptic posture which only creates perverse exclusion, deepening inequities and poverty in Latin America, as well as unequal access to communication and information technologies. Both are too simplistic in their dichotomous postures. The complexity of globalization is falsely reduced to a one-dimensional dynamic, which in turn, according to Mato et al. (2000), ignores human action and will, as well as the fact that individuals are subjects and social actors.

My main interest lies in recovering the possibility of strategic action by the social actors who are in decisive positions and power positions in politi-

cal and civil spaces, as well as, on the part of institutions, to intervene, influence, and design public policies and state actions promoting social development in Latin America. Undoubtedly, there is unequal access to information and communication technologies, as the Declaration of Principles 'Building the Information Society: A global challenge in the new Millennium' states:

The benefits of the information technology revolution are today unevenly distributed between the developed and developing countries and within societies. We are fully committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized. (World Summit on the Information Society. Phase I, 2003)

In other words, the 'political will' must act and wholeheartedly support the development process.

I would also like to stress the importance of organizational design and, within this, the strategic role of the information professional on the macro level, as well as within the organizational context, in the pursuit of social development objectives.

Latin America is considered the most unequal continent in the world.³ To pursue and promote social equity is not only a responsibility: it is an ethical duty. I subscribe to Kliskberg's words on 'The keys of development for Latin America':

social development strengthens human capital; it empowers social capital, and creates political stability, essential bases for a healthy and sustained growth ... The vision that appears is that social development is not possible without economic growth, but the latter, in turn, will not be sustainable if it is not supported by an intensive social growth. (Kliskberg 2003:89).

Within this vision, and in the macro-social scope displayed in the social justice-economic growth-ecological sustainability triangulation, I would like to point out that it is a question of promoting public policies and state programs which define strategies related to free and universal access to information and knowledge and promote the development of networks based on communication and information technologies. These considerations take into account the final goal of promoting social equity and, consequently, social, economic and political development.

From this conviction, we have officially and formally proposed the definition of a national information policy. The key concept of the proposed information policy is 'information mastery', which is framed in the Venezuelan Constitution and in the postulates of UNESCO's *Medium term strategy, 2002/2007*. (UNESCO, 2002)

In our proposal we emphasize the opportunity – and the duty – of all individuals to master information, in order to exercise all their rights and duties – whether civil, political, social, economic, environmental, educational, or cultural. It should be done in both an individual and a collective direction with the goal of increasing the overall quality of human life.

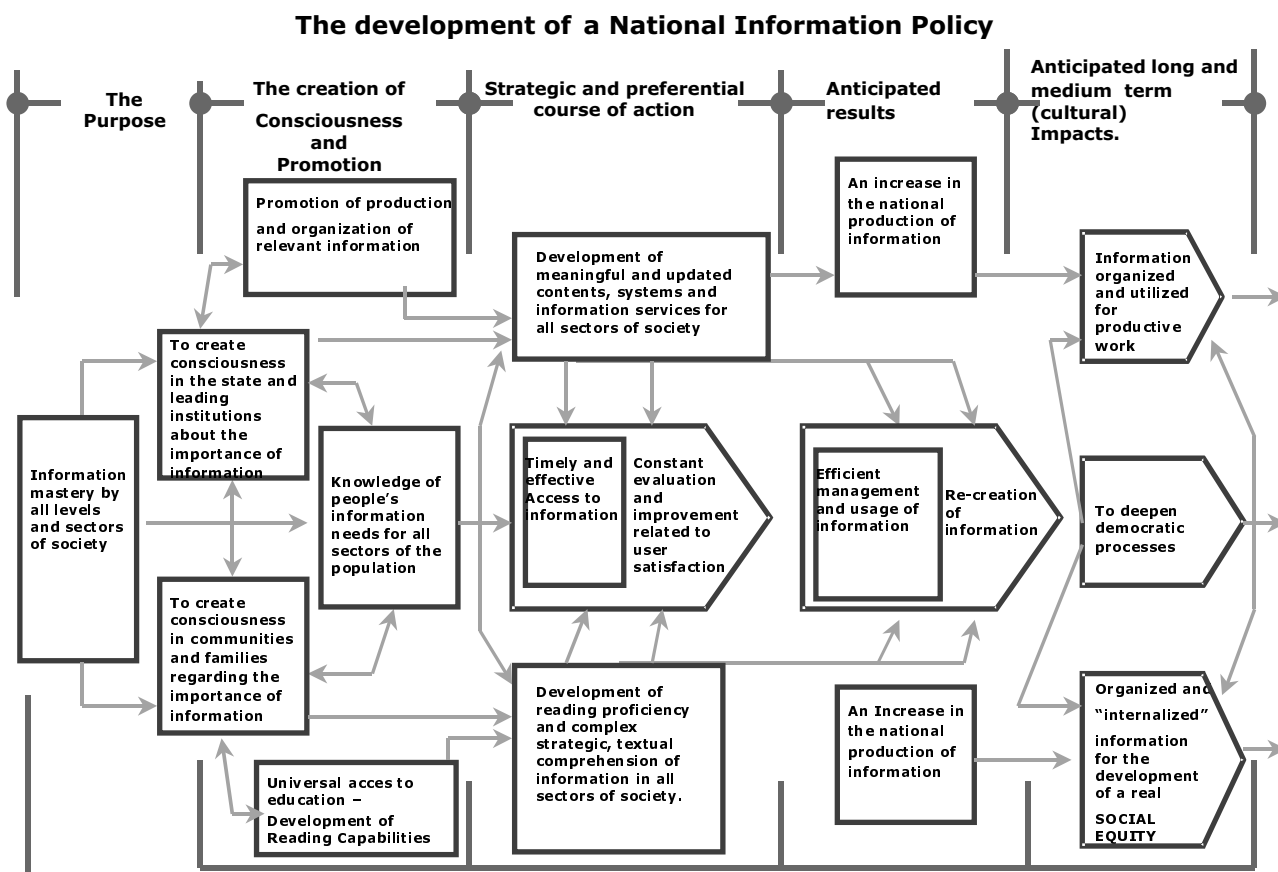
In a first approach, we proposed that information mastery by the population has four always-interactive instances:

1. Free and timely access to information –
As a basic human right
2. The constant improvement in the reading ability –
From textual reading to strategic reading: as a support for a complex, systemic, strategic thinking.
3. Integral handling – use – of information –
As a support of participation, communication, decision and action processes.
4. Information retrieval and recreation –
For the constant creation of new knowledge.

Within these parameters, this information policy proposal agrees on establishing and applying a national information policy for knowledge, democratic participation and the creation of social wealth.⁴

Our basic assumption is that in Latin America, the challenge of the states and the institutions involved is to increase interest in the use and mastery of information in the majority of the population. This must be exercised in a population which includes a whole range of social-cultural and geo-economic differences and which is still in the process of consolidation, in terms of its cultural diversity and projects.

Within the framework of the National Information Policy proposal and the 'six goals or challenges' document (Sánchez Vegas and Cruz 2001), we approached the diagnosis and detec-



S. Sánchez Vegas and Jaime Cruz, 2002, 2003.

Chart 2.

tion of the required information professional competences. From this base we defined the technical and practical competencies for the different levels of expertise. Some of these have already been mentioned above.

We also defined generic competencies linked to professional practice: strategic planning; human resource management and supervision; organizational design and knowledge legislation and ethical management practices. In addition, and very importantly, skills and knowledge for the design of public policies, administrative procedures and theory related to the design and implementation of strategies for future development and for the eradication of poverty.

Thus, we redefined an information professional as having a role of transforming strategic information into 'active' knowledge – that is, knowledge serving the purpose of supporting decision making, creation and innovation by individuals, organizations or societies, in order to advance the objectives of future development and social change.

In Chart 2,⁵ we can see the aspects involved in the exercise of a national information policy.

In the scope of civil society and within the triangulation between the state, the private and business sector, and civil society, it is a question of promoting services sustained on technological platforms, which due to their interactive and reticulated nature – and framed in the principles of the knowledge management – promote virtual spaces for the exchange of knowledge and experience as well as goods and merchandise (e-commerce). Also, national information policies should provide – through technological mediation – access to strategic information selected by individuals and to content produced and generated by individuals, organizations or communities, expressing their interests and requirements (Proenza, 2003).

'Apalancar: Portal Nacional de Desarrollo'⁶ (Apalancar: The National Development Portal), created in May 2003 is the successful result of an alliance between the private sector through the Venezuelan telecommunications company

(CANTV), the State, through the National Center of Information Technologies (CNTI) and the civil society Centro de Investigaciones en Ciencias Sociales / Social Sciences Research Center (CISOR) and Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil /National Association of Civil Society Organizations (SINERGIA) (www.sinergia.org.ve) which is the national network of development organizations. The Development Gateway Foundation of the World Bank provides financial support.

Apalancar is designed under a knowledge management strategy and with the purpose of providing organizations with the basic tools required to interact effectively in the information society: technological platforms, socio-technical networks, and information services, at accessible prices.

Policies, programs and strategies are advanced by public or private institutions and organizations. In this sense, it is a question of attending to the organizational design of the institutions, leading to efficient and effective optimization of their knowledge assets and to value creation in terms of the achievement of their strategic objectives.

Organizational design is based on the principles of knowledge management and the learning organization should include the creation, identification, access, transference and evaluation mechanisms of strategic information and the creation of the institutional memory. The organization should also aim at encouraging people's participation in horizontal structures and teamwork in collaborative work environments. This allows the process of passing from tacit knowledge into explicit knowledge and timely communication through interactive networks, facilitating information exchange and knowledge creation.

Kliskberg (2003) presents three important and successful experiences of work and humanitarian undertakings in Brazil, Venezuela and Peru. All of them are expressions of the development of social capital, based upon trust, civic behavior and a willingness to working together. Kliskberg points out that

the adopted organizational design seems to have played a decisive role on the obtained results. ... It allows them to absorb the information of the reality through all of their "pores" and, when sharing it internally, the

ability to react before changes thereof improve. (Kliskberg, 2003)

Organizational design requires an integral design of organizational infoarchitectures and technological knowledge architectures leading to access to strategic information, organized technical memory, business intelligence tools, data mining, applications inherent to the undertaking or organization, yellow pages of the organization and handling of databases for information analysis as a base for competitive intelligence strategies, among other facilities.

In conclusion, my main objective has been to emphasize that knowledge management, and the new technological configurations sustained by networks, are based on the primordial knowledge – information – communication triangulation in which the new organizational and social practices are structured. And, that it is a question of promoting forms of civic construction, leading to participation and people empowerment in order to support social capital, which is the substrate of the democratic exercise and expansion. This in turn constitutes the base of the social, political and cultural development of nations.

I have also emphasized the need for the education and training of emerging information professionals, with an articulating role in the process of translating strategic information into knowledge for action. My premise is that information is objectified knowledge (Guédez, 2003), and that its accumulation or mere existence, rigorously organized and accessible though it might be, with or without technological mediation, may not lead to any desired result. Its existence per se is passive; it neither adds nor creates value. It becomes 'active' knowledge when it is implemented, when a qualitative process from tacit to explicit knowledge occurs, when it supports decision-making processes as well as creative and innovative processes.

I finish with a quote from V. Guédez (2003):

if knowledge is not translated into improvement, it would betray its deepest human essence.

Acknowledgments

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Notes

1. Iraset Páez Urdaneta approached this criticism very lucidly in *Gestión de la inteligencia, aprendizaje tecnológico y modernización del trabajo informacional: Retos y oportunidades*. Caracas: USB, 1992. Fourteen years later his arguments are still very valid.
2. A complementary classification of knowledge and KM strategies can be found in M. Boisot; D. Griffiths; V. Mole. (1998). Strategies for managing knowledge assets: A tale of two companies. In: *Technovation*, Vol. 18, No 5/6, pp. 529–539.
3. The tenth part of the Latin American population with higher resources gets 48 percent of the incomes, while the poorest tenth part obtains 1 percent thereof, according to the World Bank (WB). The equivalent shares among developed countries are 29.1 percent and 2.5 percent respectively. 'La maldición de la desigualdad'. *The Economist*. Published in *El Universal*, Caracas, 10 April 2003. Regarding access to Internet and information and communication technology, Internet penetration statistics (access and use) for Latin America and the Caribbean are not encouraging, when compared with Internet penetration in countries with high development and quality of life indexes. Source: Internet World Stats – Site.
4. Taken from: Enunciado: Hacia una Política – y una acción – Nacional de Información Educativa-Cultural; al servicio de una sociedad del conocimiento. Official document consigned at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports on March 22, 2002 by Saadia Sánchez Vegas. General Director of the National Library of Venezuela, years 2001–2002 and Jaime Cruz, Technical Consultant of the National Library of Venezuela, years 2001–2002.
5. *Idem*.
6. Apalancar Portal: www.apalancar.org.

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Activities of the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

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Introduction

IFLA's presence in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) became stronger as from the second half of the 1980s, with the creation of the Regional Activities Division (Division VIII), the appointment of the Standing Committee of the IFLA/LAC Section, the introduction of the Advancement of Librarianship Program for the Third World (ALP) (later called Advancement of Librarianship Program) and the establishment of the IFLA Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Caracas, Venezuela.

In the early 1990s, IFLA began to exercise a stronger influence on the librarians of the region, as the ALP (at present an IFLA Core Activity) consolidated, the Regional Office moved to Brazil and the powers of the members of the Standing Committee of the Section were defined more accurately. IFLA's presence rests on a three-legged axis – ALP, the Regional Office and the Standing Committee – that has a coherent effect which enables us to make exchanges and foster development.

In the following pages I intend to outline briefly the history of the Federation's role in LAC, with its accomplishments and problems, but first I would like to make a point. Our region has persistently suffered from lack of resources throughout its history, which has hampered the development of better and more active associations and the performance of the librarians of the Region, since costs have always been prohibitive for them to attend conferences, seminars and other meetings held outside their workplaces, either as ordinary participants or speakers.

Not long ago, when a librarian from a large Brazilian state library was encouraged to take part in an IFLA Conference, she showed me her paycheck for about USD 100.00, before paying her fee for the Regional Librarianship Council, which should be paid to exercise the profession in Brazil. She had no resources to pay the fee for the librarians' association in her own state or to take part in any other meeting held outside the city where she was living.

This state of affairs, which a distracted observer with little knowledge about the problems of the region may consider as derived from indifference or lack of interest in the issues of the profession, is entirely caused by simple lack of money. It is worth noting also that most of the libraries of the region suffer from lack of resources.

However, there are outstanding examples of determination, courage, persistence and competence well known to those who have attended the numerous seminars and meetings held in the region under IFLA sponsorship. The most remarkable example is the case of our Argentinian colleagues that are in charge of the World Library and Information Congress to be held in Buenos Aires in

August, 2004: at a very difficult time for the Argentine nation, with its citizens experiencing many difficulties and when many people thought they could not handle the organization, they faced the challenge and they are now on the brink of holding the Congress with all our admiration and respect.

First Steps

The main landmark in IFLA's presence in LAC in connection with the librarians' associations can be traced to the beginning of 1987, when the President, Hans Peter Geh, and the Professional Coordinator, Guust van Wesemael, visited the region sponsored by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and interviewed representatives of the librarians' associations of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Curaçao, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela. It was during the visit to Venezuela that the President of IFLA/LAC, Rosario Gassol de Horovitz, was told that the Professional Board had agreed to organize the Latin American Seminar of Librarians and Related Professionals in Caracas.

The organization of the seminar was in line with IFLA's Core Program 'Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World' (ALP). The event was financed thanks to a contribution to IFLA by the US administration through the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). An organizing committee was set up under the management of Rosario Gassol de Horovitz, from the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela. The other members of the committee were Robert Wedgeworth, from Columbia University and a member of IFLA Executive Committee, and Guust van Wesemael. IFLA/LAC was in charge of planning and organizing the event, as well as editing, publishing and distributing the final report. The US Embassy in Venezuela also organized the WORLDNET program, via satellite, to exchange ideas with US experts in Washington. This program was broadcast later through domestic TV stations to different Latin American countries. The Seminar was "an important but also memorable event". The participants requested IFLA to declare Spanish to be an official language of the Federation and suggested the establishment of the International Librarians' Day.

Russell Bowden, from the Round Table on the Management of Library Associations (RTMA/IFLA), was invited by the Brazilian Federation

of Librarians' Associations in September 1987 to address the XIV Brazilian Librarianship and Information Congress in Recife, Pernambuco, when he spoke about IFLA and RTMA's role and introduced the *Guidelines for the Management of Library Associations*. These were translated into Portuguese and Spanish and distributed widely in Spanish among the Latin American and Caribbean associations, and in Portuguese among the associations of Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe).

In 1999, the Latin American Seminar of Librarians and Related Professional Associations called 'The Future Associations', held in Mexico City, was another important landmark for the librarians' associations of the Region. Several IFLA divisions like IFLA/LAC and IFLA/ALP, various institutions of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (Mexican Library Association: AMBAC) took part in the seminar. The objectives were to know and reflect about the current situation of the associations, make a joint plan for their future activities and figure out how they could have a real presence for society, for the official and academic authorities and for international organizations. Representatives of the associations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Martinique, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Marten and Venezuela, and the President of the American Library Association, attended the seminar. The organizing committee was coordinated by Rosa María Fernández de Zamora.

The conclusions of the seminar can be summarized as follows:

Professional associations

Associations should foster participation in professional associations among their members as well as working with non-graduate students, since they are the natural cornerstones of the future membership of the associations. Associations should not restrict their actions to their own countries and, on the doorstep of the 21st century, domestic and international unity was to be encouraged. It was also considered that, for the mission and vision of future associations, it is necessary to focus on their ability for change and their capacity to facilitate communication between members and other domestic and international associations. In the view of the lack of coordination at the moment, the existing associations should be coordinated by a federation

or any other kind of organization, all the existing associations being represented. It was important to promote the academic level of the members of the associations through lectures, meetings, events, and other professional activities.

Professional ethics

Associations should have a professional code of ethics to be spread widely among their library communities, for which they were advised to take into account and analyze the codes in force in Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and other countries, adjusting them to the current situation.

Access to information and freedom of speech

Associations should encourage the work of their members and the domestic communities' libraries, assuring the right to information.

Organization and operation

It was recommended to adopt the IFLA/UNESCO recommendations regarding the management of associations. Management positions in the associations should be filled by direct election. Associations should act as technical consultants regarding activities connected with libraries and the promotion of reading for the corresponding government and academic organizations. Associations should base their work on strategic planning focused on the future.

Financing

Fees for members should be based on their categories and geographical location. Associations should put at their members' disposal information regarding resources available for financing through UNESCO, IFLA, FID, etc., and were also encouraged to seek support from both private and public organizations.

Globalization and technology

Associations should participate globally in the advancement of librarianship. The technological systems and packages should be standardized in each country so as to assure compatibility in data transfer, which is essential for cooperative work.

Communications and cooperation

The relationships between national and local associations should be strengthened and cooperative activities should be carried out.

Library science training

Library science training programs should be published on web pages. Advanced syllabuses should be promoted at national level, with corresponding curricula that contribute to international accreditation. Associations should look into the need for continuous training of their members in order to meet those needs more satisfactorily. Associations should also contribute to undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate academic programs and take part in formulating recommendations and guidelines regarding their relevance and quality.

Copyright

Meetings between authors, editors, booksellers and librarians are encouraged. Associations should participate in law-making regarding copyright in their own country, in order to safeguard users' rights.

Other matters

The associations should promote international projects and initiatives, such as the UNESCO project on the Memory of the World or the manifestos made by UNESCO/IFLA regarding school and public libraries.

The Latin American and Caribbean Section

The Section and the Regional Office have always given logistical support to the activities carried out by different IFLA Programs, Divisions and Sections regarding the organization of events in the Region.

Since 1994 the LAC Section organizes Open Sessions during IFLA General Conferences. Three or four speakers participate each year.

The Region has also been represented at the Open Sessions of Division VIII as well as in the workshops organized in some of these conferences, in some cases in coordination with other professional Sections. The participation of LAC representatives in the IFLA General Conferences in the period 1997–1999 was outstanding, due to the contribution of the DANIDA Grants, which financed the travel and participation of the selected candidate.

The Chair of the LAC Section in conjunction with the Regional Office have consistently pro-

moted IFLA activities in general and, in particular, participation by the Section in events organized by IFLA. They have also invited guest speakers from different Latin American countries. Leaflets and IFLA and Section publications have been distributed and representatives at the General Conferences have been informed about the Section's activities through posters made by the Regional Office.

Since 1999 four meetings have been convened and coordinated by ALP in Uppsala, Sweden, in which the most relevant aspects of the program have been analyzed, mainly regarding the relationship with the other regions as shown in the projects approved every year. There have also been working meetings with the Nordic Group, the main sponsor of the projects approved and financed by ALP.

The Portuguese speaking African countries have been supported, among others, through the delivery of publications written in Portuguese.

Members of the IFLA Executive Board have visited the region many times: Robert Wedgeworth, President, visited Brazil; Christine Deschamps, President, traveled to Argentina, Chile and Brazil; Winston Roberts, Coordinator of Professional Activities, visited Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Martinique and Mexico; and Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, traveled to Trinidad and Tobago.

The internal organization of the Section consolidated with the draft of a document in Spanish and English in which the basic functions of the President, Secretariat and other members of the Section were outlined. The document also became useful for the other regional sections.

The Standing Committee of the Section took part in the identification, analysis, evaluation and approval of the projects sent for their assessment by the library institutions of the Region, in compliance with the Mission and Objectives of the Section, as follows:

Mission of the Section

To promote the development, updating and a better performance of the information professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to foster librarians' associations, library and information services so as to be able to meet the social needs of the countries of the Region, focusing on the pro-

motion of reading, literacy processes and the improvement of the cultural life.

Objectives of the Section

To foster the processes related to the access to information and knowledge of the countries of the Region, the development of librarians' associations and the library and information services, focusing on the promotion of reading, the literacy processes and the use of new technologies in the countries of the Region to improve the cultural life.

To achieve this general goal, the Section shall define the strategies required based on the exchange and coordination of efforts and resources with other IFLA's Programs and Professional Groups, particularly Division VIII and ALP; thus, it will be aimed at forming strong bonds and conceiving joint projects with IFLA's Programs, that take into account the problems of the Region and that are willing to plan and perform significant activities together with librarians' institutions and associations of Latin America and the Caribbean. Support from regional and international cooperation agencies shall be sought all the same.

Even though the Section was created in the 1980s, we are outlining below the main actions performed only since 1994, when the 60th IFLA General Conference was held in Cuba, as the result of the efforts made to contribute to the advancement of librarianship and the professional excellence of librarians, in order to make IFLA's presence more visible in the Region. In the goals achieved, the support of the Regional Office and ALP played a key role together with the institutional and government support of those countries where different events promoted by the Section were organized.

Professional activities

1994

The 60th IFLA General Conference was held in La Habana, Cuba. For the first time, a Latin American and Caribbean country was the venue for an IFLA General Conference, with the participation of about 940 foreign representatives, of which 150 were from the region; added to over 400 Cuban librarians, this led to a strong Latin American and Caribbean presence in the meeting. Seventy papers and 30 posters were

submitted by different representatives of the Region.

1995

A seminar on the assessment of Central American librarians' needs and the drawing-up of projects was conducted in Managua, Nicaragua in March.

1996

A seminar on library services in rural and semi-urban areas was conducted in Piura, Perú in April.

1997

A seminar was held in Martinique in March on tools for the development, identification and assessment of librarians' needs in the Caribbean and the design of projects.

1998

A seminar was conducted in Salvador, Bahía, Brazil in March on the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

1999

The Latin American Seminar of Librarians and Related Professionals' Associations, entitled 'Future Associations' was conducted in Mexico City, Mexico in March.

2000

A workshop to design a distance learning program for the Caribbean professionals was conducted in San Juan, Puerto Rico in March.

2001

The 35th General Meeting of the Association of Graduate Librarians of the Republic of Argentina (Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de la República Argentina – ABGRA) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in April.

2002

The 1st International Congress on Archives, Libraries, Document Centers and Museums (INTEGRAR) and the 4th International Meeting of Portuguese Speaking Librarians were both held in São Paulo, Brazil, in March.

2003

The Regional Seminar on the IFLA/ UNESCO manifestos for public and school libraries was conducted in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in May.

2004

The 1st Central American Meeting of Library Associations of El Salvador, attended by the presidents of the library associations of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, was held in the city of El Salvador, in March. This was followed immediately by a meeting of the Standing Committee of the IFLA LAC Section, which enabled LAC professionals with experience in associations to take part and share their experiences.

Meetings of the Standing Committee

After each of the Seminars mentioned above there is a meeting of the Committee, which has been very useful since it has made it possible to make the most of the financing and the organization of the host country. It is worth noting IFLA/HQ financial support to the section so that the members of the Committee were able to attend the meetings.

The meeting held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in 1994, after the Brazilian Congress on Librarianship and Documentation, BIBLOS 2000, was a landmark in the development of the Section, since it received financial support not only from IFLA but also from UNESCO. Other regional and national institutions also contributed to the organization of the activities. It is also worth noting the role played by the members of the Standing Committee since through them and their institutions it was possible to resort to and use a huge array of financial, human, material, technical and coordination resources to support IFLA activities. This has led to a more visible presence of IFLA in the Region. It was the meeting in Belo Horizonte which proposed linking the meetings of the Standing Committee with a professional event, which has been going on up to now.

During the IFLA General Conferences, the Standing Committee meets twice for further discussions about the actions for which the Section is responsible. The Board of the Standing Committee, the President, the Secretariat and the Manager of the Regional Office attend the

meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, which is held every two years in Uppsala, Sweden. Birgitta Bergdahl and Gunilla Natvig (ALP) also participated actively in the meetings of the Standing Committee.

Medium-Term Program and Strategic Plan

All the members of the Section have participated actively in drawing up the Medium-Term Programs (1997–2003) and the Strategic Plan (2001–2004), using strategic planning techniques in the design.

Inauguration of the Regional Office in Brazil

The IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean was established in the head office of the Brazilian Federation of Librarians' Associations (Federação Brasileira de Associações de Bibliotecários – FEBAB) in São Paulo on 23 March 1990, following a series of meetings and discussions with IFLA's leaders which had led to the transfer of the IFLA Clearinghouse from Caracas in 1989. The inauguration of the Regional Office was attended by the then President of IFLA, Hans Peter Geh, by Birgitta Bergdahl, the ALP Coordinator and by the members of the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The President of the Section at that time was Marta Terry from Cuba. The Regional Office remained at the FEBAB head office until 2000, when it was transferred first to the National Library of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro and then to the Public Library of the State of Rio de Janeiro, where it is currently working.

The objectives of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean are:

- to promote the strengthening of the national and regional associations, encouraging them to participate in IFLA
- to foster the development of library and information services
- to increase the participation of the members from the Region in IFLA's core programs.

The Regional Office is the focal point of IFLA's activities in the Region, and is in charge of keeping a clearinghouse of IFLA publications and of disseminating information generated by IFLA. It publishes and distributes a newsletter, *Noticias*

IFLA/LAC twice a year, with the news of interest for the Region in Spanish and English. The Regional Office is linked to the Latin American and the Caribbean Section of IFLA's Division for Regional Activities (Division VIII). All the Regional Offices and the Division for Regional Activities collaborate in all IFLA's programs and work closely with the Core Program for the Advancement of Librarianship (ALP) for the promotion and improvement of information services in the developing countries as well as with the Section for the Management of Library Associations, mainly through the existing associations in the Region.

The establishment and operation of the Regional Office in its new location in Rio meant for us all the onset of a new era and new opportunities. Latin American and Caribbean countries are still undergoing serious crises derived from their economic and social problems, which have an impact on the cultural area; that is why the support given by the ALP program is so important.

The interaction and cooperation among the countries of the Region through the exchange of information, the dissemination of news and the design of projects by groups of institutions in one or more countries made it possible for the Regional Office to carry out its mission. The Office's efforts to contribute to the development of librarianship in Latin America and the Caribbean still require some further marketing to encourage the associations and institutions of the Region to give their support to the activities promoted by the Regional Office.

The Role of ALP in the Region

The IFLA Regional Office works closely with the ALP focal point in Sweden. ALP has played a key role through the financing of projects of interest for the Region and the presence of its representatives in the meetings of the Standing Committee of the Section. The projects should be of real interest for the Region and not restricted to only one country.

Projects

The projects mentioned below are those which have been developed since the establishment of the Regional Office in Brazil in 1990. Forty projects sponsored by ALP have been performed during that period. It is worth pointing out the key role played by ALP and the Nordic Group

that financed the projects, making it possible to fulfill them. All the projects have been analyzed and approved by the Standing Committee of the Section and sponsored by ALP, with additional support from institutions in the countries where the projects were developed. Projects approved by the Standing Committee are included in the Strategic Plan of the Section. Completed projects are evaluated by the Section and the evaluations delivered to the ALP office in Uppsala.

Important projects completed in the region include:

- INFOBILA. Latin American Information and Librarianship, Mexico
- 1st Ibero-American Meeting for Parliamentary Libraries, 20–23 October 1993, Mexico City
- Regional Meeting for Specialists in Library Services in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas, Piura, Peru
- Feasibility study for the retrieval of document collections about/belonging to ethnic groups in Central America, Costa Rica
- Latin American Seminar on Libraries, Reading and Street Children, Mexico
- Tools for library development for the Caribbean area, Martinique
- International Seminar on Universal Bibliographic Control, Mexico
- Regional Meeting on UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, Brazil
- Workshop to design a distance learning professional program in the Caribbean region, Puerto Rico
- 1st Latin American Meeting on Local Information Services as a Tool for Community Participation, Colombia
- Tools for library development in the Southern Cone, Chile
- 4th International Meeting of Portuguese Speaking Librarians (Inter-regional project) Brazil.

Projects approved and under way include:

- The Chilean model of participatory management of public libraries for Southern Cone countries based on the Chilean public libraries, Chile
- Strengthening and creation of library associations in Central America, El Salvador.

Professional Associations

An important landmark was the publication in 1998 of the *Directorio de asociaciones de biblio-*

tecarios y profesionales afines de América Latina y el Caribe [Directory of Librarians and Related Professionals' Associations in Latin America and the Caribbean], coordinated by Rosa María Fernández de Zamora (Mexico), President of the Section from 1991 to 1993, and sponsored by IFLA under the auspices of the Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (University Center of Library Research) (CUIB) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico) (UNAM). This was the first directory of professional associations in the Region, collecting information that enabled us to know the reality of the professional associations in the region. It also showed that many associations are very dynamic and enthusiastic in their attempts to improve the working conditions of their members and help in the solution of the problems faced by the librarians of the Region. The directory showed that 90 percent of the associations did not pay their staff and did not have an office of their own. Most of them did not have a computer and only four had a web page.

Despite the fact that most of the Latin American countries had associations, only eight are members of IFLA. There is also a regional association, the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), which is an IFLA member. The reason for associations not being members of IFLA is not lack of interest but lack of resources. It is expected that, with the creation of the Section for Management of Library Associations and the analysis of possible reductions in membership fees that is under study, a solution will be reached that may lead to an increase in the number of members from the developing countries.

Most of the presidents of the associations showed interest in participating in IFLA. However, it is necessary to bear in mind that when someone is chosen, they take on the commitment to attend the meetings. Since most professionals in the Region do not have the necessary resources for attending most of the meetings, they end up declining the invitation so as not to commit to an obligation they will not be able to fulfill.

A proposal has been submitted at IFLA Headquarters to make a new directory of associations of the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Only after the new data are collected and analyzed will it be possible to have a clear idea about how the situation has changed over the last five years.

Meanwhile, taking into account the state of affairs in the Region, it seems that the situation has not undergone a marked change.

The Information Society

The ability of the countries of the Region to integrate into the Information Society depends to a great extent on the improvement of their economic conditions and social development. There are Latin American and Caribbean countries with extensive human and material resources that enable them to take an active part in the Information Society, whereas other countries still have a long way to go to become integrated. Even in the most developed countries in this field, there are regions that are still very underdeveloped, like in Brazil, where the south and southeast regions are more developed than the rest.

We believe that libraries and librarians play a key role in the integration of countries and regions into the Information Society, since libraries are natural channels of access to information. To reach this goal it is necessary to devote more material resources to libraries and courses on librarianship and to increase salaries.

IFLA has played an important role in the creation of the Information Society, as can be seen in its active participation in the World Summit on the Information Society. Thanks to these efforts, the documents of the Summit made important references to libraries.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, IFLA's efforts can be seen in their work in favor of the development of the associations of the Region, of library institutions in general and of professional librarians. These have undoubtedly produced good results, but there is still a lot to do.

The Latin American and Caribbean Conference on the Information Society, which will take place in Rio de Janeiro from 26 to 28 September 2004, will be a high level technical meeting to promote debate on the priorities of the LAC countries in this regard. The goal of the meeting is to define a proposal for political guidelines for the development of the Information Society in the Region. It is aimed at experts who take part in programs and initiatives for the Information Society in LAC, including people in charge of government programs, researchers, leaders of or-

ganizations of the service sector, representatives of the private sector at regional and sub-regional levels, and members of institutions of multi-lateral financing.

Conclusion

Latin American and Caribbean library and information professionals are fully aware that social progress is bound to information. In order to reach appropriate standards of living through democracy it is necessary to achieve public enlightenment, not based on manipulated information and suppositions. This implies joint effort and equal participation in a free society.

The role of the librarian is to assure that all the information required should reach all kinds of user, whether it is a child, a scientist, politician, researcher, student or worker. His or her main concern should be to provide the information requested, to a particular person in a proper time and manner. The librarian has a key role to play and should be fully integrated into his society. Information systems reach all social classes and are a means for acquiring knowledge personally, thus being a continuous training tool.

Information professionals must keep the population informed in order to make them socially active and participatory. A mature and well-educated population, fully aware of their rights and capable of acting rationally will make it possible to preserve our culture, our environment and implement the Information Society.

Inform to form: that is the question.

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REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Information Needs Are Legitimate: interview with Kay Raseroka

Eva Pressl of the Institute for New Culture Technologies, Vienna, Austria, Interviewed Kay Raseroka, IFLA President, at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003. The text of the interview is also available at <http://world-information.org/wio/readme/992006691/1077101723>, and is reproduced here by permission of the interviewer.

EP: What was IFLA's motivation to come to WSIS 2003 in Geneva?

KR: IFLA is concerned with the information society, particularly because it is the pre-stage to a knowledge society. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are only tools and without people that know how to use and exploit them an information society for all will remain nothing but a distant dream. A lot of people still lack access to ICT. So we are concerned with the actual use of ICTs as a facilitator to access to information for the empowerment of people. The latter is something that we librarians have always dealt with.

EP: What relevance does ICT have for libraries and librarians?

KR: We are probably some of the earliest adopters of technology. Libraries have needed to cooperate and so we networked our libraries in order to be able to transmit data and share information to meet the needs of library users. This we have done for at least three decades. Yet now that ICTs are so readily available it is rather a matter of training people how to use those tools, for access to information.

EP: Besides the use of ICT in an organizational way does the increased use of digital material change your work?

KR: It changes the speed with which we have access to information, but has also made much more different formats e.g. audio and video available to library users. Moreover the possibilities to exchange and transfer information have multiplied since we do not rely exclusively on printed material any more. But the need for people to absorb information or discover their own need for information to improve their lives remains a basic and unchanged condition. Besides, the use of ICT also means that librarians can reinforce preservation activities by digitizing very rare materials that we can thus make available to a broader audience whereas before one had to visit a special library in order to access information located only in a few sites. We used and are still using those new tools for our ends and that is where WSIS is significant. ICTs are available, but must be seen in the context of the diverse communities.

EP: You said that you digitize a lot of material, have you ever had copyright problems?

KR: What we digitize is already in the public domain meaning that the copyright has already expired. In that sense we rather make information available that was not accessible before. Yet we do have problems with electronic material that is contained in electronic journals which aggregate articles, (contained in back issues of journals) and make these articles electronically accessible on payment of license fees. The high cost of license fees limits access. Libraries are a public good. They educate, empower people to access and use information for informed decision making and so become better citizens, through contribution of their own ideas. If libraries can not afford to provide access to information that is needed and will help people to be alert, aware and develop themselves, then the information society's future is endangered.

We will have people who will have to rely on material that is cheap, of dubious quality, based on opinions rather than verifiable facts. This in turn will lead to misinformation. Libraries are at the heart of providing information that is well researched and accurate. Thus concerning the use of the Internet we see our role in providing portals where people can get accurate information. People shall not need to rely on dubious material that they find in the open digital space.

EP: Do you think that copyright is narrowing the free flow of information and the access to information?

KR: Copyright was meant to assist authors, the people that created the material, so that they could be acknowledged appropriately. Yet what is happening now is that it is no longer the authors that benefit, but the publishers. That in itself raises the costs because you are no longer dealing with the person who produced the material, but with an intermediary. Secondly there is a tendency that copyright is extended and surrendered to the forces of the free market.

We think that this is wrong and unfair, because no information is created ab initio. People do not produce material from nothing, they use public good that is provided for example in libraries. And surely when copyright expires is the time to feed the products and research results back into the public domain. We are willing to wait for a certain period of copyright, a time span that enables authors to recoup their costs and generate profit. But the extension of copyright, (for example that of Mickey Mouse) are destroying the public good and distorting the original intention of copyright. Maybe it is time to reintegrate

the moral rights into copyright or all concerned address the issue: what is morally right in the area of access to information?

EP: Does IFLA take measures against this copyright regime?

KR: We raise awareness concerning the need for a fair copyright system that takes into consideration both the rights of the authors and those of the public. Moreover we appeal to the moral responsibility of sharing information in order to be able to create more knowledge. However, since the rampant exploitation of indigenous knowledge systems for profit has become widespread we are even more worried. The notion that traditional collections of information (held in the memories of communities and shared orally) are said to be in the public domain, by virtue of being community owned warrants rapacious exploitation, addition of the value but without compensation or sharing of credit to the original creators is totally unacceptable. We cannot justify such double standards. We must be morally correct and acknowledge that communities, whether from developed or third world communities, need each others information sources for the creation of new knowledge. There are so many cultures that we can only contribute to a better understanding when we share our different perspectives, information and knowledge.

EP: Do you think that copyright issues are adequately represented at WSIS?

KR: If copyright is not an issue then it should be. Some of the NGOs and civil society organizations are very concerned about it. Generally many say that we should partner with the private sector. But we do not have similar values. The industry is concerned

with making money by hook or by crook; sorry to say so. And although it sometimes makes the impression that there are business people with social responsibility, observations indicate that they pick and choose those responsibilities as profit dictates.

EP: But if the private sector is not going to provide a solution to this problem who will?

KR: We are not saying they should provide a solution. We are asking if they can listen to the broader issues of morality, ethics and the need of the billions of people who do not have the financial means to participate in their money based system. The product we are looking for is one that enables sustainability of quality of life for humanity through ethical use of information resources by all.

EP: Do think that WSIS will be a success and help you advance your cause?

KR: What WSIS has done is raise awareness concerning the need of people to use and exploit information. And that is fantastic, because it has never happened before that a conference focused on information as basis for creating knowledge and a better society. IFLA will use the input and experiences from WSIS to continue helping people to alert them to the importance of knowing that information needs are legitimate; learn how and where to find information and how to critically analyse information in order to develop themselves and contribute to a democratic society.

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IFLA Policies and Programmes

Draft Statement on Indigenous Knowledge

[For Consultation]

IFLA recognises the vital importance of Indigenous knowledge and knowledge traditions to the Indigenous peoples of the world, and acknowledges the effort to date by the world's Indigenous community to preserve, maintain and protect their continued use.

IFLA understands that Indigenous knowledge traditions are configured in a complex and dynamic relation between the changing universe, the earth and its shifting environment; understands that Indigenous knowledge has evolved from a long history of Indigenous people interacting with these changing elements; and importantly, understands this to be the fundamental basis on which Indigenous identities, histories and futures have continued to evolve.

IFLA acknowledges that Indigenous knowledge traditions have been disrupted throughout history by many external influences and to varying degrees; and understands the need for Indigenous peoples to preserve and maintain existing knowledge traditions, the need to continue its transmission to subsequent generations, and the need to protect against any further erosion of knowledge traditions.

IFLA agrees with the spirit of the UN Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation "to enable everyone to have access to knowledge, to enjoy the arts and literature of all peoples, to share in advances made in science in all parts of the world and in the resulting benefits, and to contribute to the enrichment of cultural life" (see Article IV, no. 4), and "broad dissemination

of ideas and knowledge, based on the freest exchange and discussion" (see Article VII, no. 1).

IFLA sees the importance and significance of traditional pathways of Indigenous knowledge traditions, and encourages the work of the international organisations to protect the intellectual and cultural property of Indigenous peoples and to safeguard against further erosion of Indigenous knowledge traditions, and believes similar benefits can be achieved across libraries, archives and information services through the development and implementation of appropriate protocols.

Given the complexities of the contending elements, IFLA reasserts its Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom to ensure the widest possible access to information for all peoples (see <http://www.ifla.org/faife/policy/iflastat/gldeclar-e.html>) and recommends that libraries and archives work in cooperation with Indigenous communities to:

1. Establish Indigenous advisory or reference committees to assist with the development of Indigenous priorities and agendas;
2. Adopt policy positions identifying ways to address the diverse needs of Indigenous peoples as well as the separate needs of the broader community;
3. Encourage the use of intellectual and cultural property principles and protocol guides to ensure the proper protection and use of materials on Indigenous knowledge;
4. Devise and implement programs to collect, preserve and disseminate resources on Indigenous knowledge traditions;

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5. Make available and promote information resources which support research and learning about Indigenous knowledge systems;
6. Encourage the involvement of the Indigenous community in the production of educational resources to assist children to understand knowledge traditions and systems, and to appreciate elements that contribute to the Indigenous peoples' sense of identity;
7. Publicize the value, contribution, and importance of Indigenous knowledge, knowledge traditions, and knowledge systems to both non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples;
8. Urge governments to ensure the exemption from value added taxes of books and other recording media on Indigenous knowledge;
9. Include in annual reports activities, innovations and achievements against policy objectives; and to,
10. Share experiences and progress with colleagues at IFLA conferences.

Associated Documents

IFLA. Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and

Intellectual Freedom. <http://www.ifla.org/faife/policy/iflastat/gldeclar.html>

Indigenous People's Biodiversity Network (IPBN). *Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovations and the Convention on*

Biological Diversity. <http://www.ecouncil.ac.cr/rio/fopcus/report/english/ipbn.htm>

World Intellectual Property Organisation. *Traditional knowledge and cultural expressions*. <http://www.wipo.int/globalissues/tk>

ATSIC. *Our culture, our future: intellectual and cultural property rights*. <http://www.icip.lawnet.com.au/>

This draft issued for consultation, February 2004.

From the Secretariat

Farewell to Ross Shimmon, IFLA Secretary General 1999–2004

Ross Shimmon became IFLA Secretary General in April 1999. He and IFLA agreed on a five-year term, so his departure did not come unexpected.

The members of IFLA's Governing Board, IFLA staff, colleagues and friends and even some members of their family attended a special farewell meeting for Ross and Pat Shimmon in the auditorium of the Royal Library on 18 March 2004.

The Dutch national library has been the host of IFLA's Headquarters office for more than two decades and The Hague had been Ross's home base for the last five years, at least between all of his travels.

A row of speakers – including IFLA President Kay Raseroka and Dutch National Librarian Wim van Drimmelen – gave speeches in praise of the outgoing Secretary General. They reminded the audience, each in their specific tones, how Ross had guided IFLA, offering the Federation not only his vision, but also his working power, endurance, intelligence and skills. Former IFLA Treasurer Derek Law spoke in particular about Ross Shimmon's 43-year career in librarianship, which was now coming to a close.

After all the speeches it was time for presents. Ross was offered a pair of specially bound booklets; one contained a selection of his writings during his term of office, the other was a bundling of IFLA manifestos,

declarations and statements issued during his tenure. The most special present, however, was a lifelong membership of the Kent County Cricket Club, offered to him by a large group of friends and colleagues.

In reply to all the friendly words directed at him, Ross thanked all those present. A message with the same content is reproduced below.

Following the farewell meeting, the Royal Library offered a reception, which was followed by a dinner for a group of special invitees.

Sjoerd Koopman

Farewell message from Ross Shimmon

Dear Friends and Colleagues;

Incredibly, this is my last hour as Secretary General IFLA.

I would like to thank so many people for being such good colleagues; President Kay Raseroka, immediate Past President Christine Deschamps, present and past members of the Governing Board and its predecessors, members of our Sections, past and present Core Activities Directors and hosts, our Regional Managers, members of the conference organising committees, colleagues in our sister organisations in the International Committee of the Blue Shield, in Unesco and in the International Publishers Association and any other organisations. Not least of course, our small team at Headquarters who have been such good colleagues.

Between us all, I think, we have built on the achievements of our predecessors and made progress towards our ambition to be a truly international organisation and, as we claim, the global voice of libraries, librarians and their users.

I have enjoyed my five years at the helm of the good ship IFLA and I think it is in good shape as Rama takes over ready for the challenges ahead. I believe that libraries are needed more than ever as technology advances and terrorism threatens. We need to hold our nerve and defend our principles so that people have free access to information, ideas and works of imagination so that they can make sense of the world around them and take control of their lives.

In a few days Pat and I will return to our home in Faversham. We hope that some of you will find your way there. You will certainly be very welcome. To whet your appetite you might like to check www.faversham.org.

Some of you know that my magnificent retirement gift was life membership of Kent County Cricket Club. If you would like to see where I shall be spending some of my newfound leisure, check www.kentccc.com. If I am not watching cricket, I am quite likely to be at the Kent and East Sussex Railway www.kesr.org.

So, farewell, thanks and good luck!

Ross Shimmon
IFLA Secretary General,
1999–2004

IFLA Conferences and Meetings

Big Nordic Delegation Planned for Buenos Aires

As many as 100 Nordic librarians will be travelling to Argentina in August for the World Library and Information Congress: IFLA 70th conference in Buenos Aires.

Poul Erlandsen, of the National Library of Education in Copenhagen, is organizing group travel for the delegation. He has 75 confirmed bookings and says the figure may well reach 100.

Poul says that travelling as a group helps obtain a better price compared to individual bookings. "Another important aspect is that, for first-timers and delegates not used to travelling abroad, being with a group feels safer", Poul adds.

Membership

New Members

IFLA's membership continues to grow in all corners of the world. We are pleased to welcome the 17 new members who joined us between 29 January and 15 April 2004. We are especially happy to introduce SILEÓN.INFO LTDA, our first Corporate Partner from South America.

Bronze Corporate Partners

Sage Publications, United Kingdom
SILEÓN.INFO LTDA, Colombia

Institutional Members

Repository Library of Estonia / Eesti Hoiuraamatukogu, Estonia
National Iranian Oil Company, NIOC Central Library, Iran
Elias Sourasky Central Library, Tel Aviv University, Israel
Biblioteca comunale Augusta, Italy
Länsbiblioteket i Örebro län / Örebro County Library, Sweden
Co-operative College Moshi, Tanzania
University of Miami, Otto G. Richter Library, United States

Personal Affiliates

Ms Fiona Bradley, Australia
Hiroshi Sakamoto, Japan
Onyinye Emmanuel, Nigeria
Ms Lisa Norberg, United States
Ms Mengxiong Liu, United States

Student Affiliates

Ms Mira Foster, United States
Ms M. Cristina Pattuelli, United States

From the Core Activities

ALP Renamed

At its meeting in The Hague in March 2004, the IFLA Governing Board agreed that the Advancement of Lib-

brarianship Programme (ALP) should be renamed 'Action for Development through Libraries'.

From the Divisions and Sections

New Metropolitan Libraries Section

The IFLA Professional Committee recently approved the formation of the Metropolitan Libraries Section. This is based on the International Association of Metropolitan Libraries (INTAMEL), formerly a Round Table of IFLA, and is placed, as before, within the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public (Division III). Founded in 1968, INTAMEL became a Round Table of IFLA in 1976. In recent years it has had around 70 members from 28 countries across 5 continents.

INTAMEL has been a thriving network for the exchange of information and professional experience, primarily between public libraries of cities serving populations of c. 400,000 and above. Libraries serving wide and diverse geographical areas with similar or larger populations, as well as capital cities or major conurbations with smaller populations, have also been welcomed into membership and have contributed much to the organisation's success. Overall, then, the membership embraces the public libraries of regional, provincial and state capital cities, conurbations and metropolitan areas, city regions, core cities, commercial

centres, federal states, and a sovereign city state.

Over the years, members have exchanged ideas and information on a range of professional topics including library networks, buildings, automation, customer service, training, research, collections development, public relations, cultural diversity, services to special groups, and co-operation and partnership, all within the context of services for large metropolitan areas.

Membership of INTAMEL has been mostly institutional, together with a small number of personal

members, and the participants in its activities have usually been the directors or other senior colleagues from the city libraries represented. About one third of the INTAMEL members are also members of IFLA, so naturally we hope that they will continue their involvement by registering for the new Metropolitan Libraries Section. Equally we look forward to attracting new members from other city library services, as well as colleagues with similar interests from across the IFLA 'family'.

Since 1968 INTAMEL has held a very successful series of annual Conferences, giving members the opportunity to meet in host cities around the world and to share the challenges of meeting new needs and developing new services. Venues for recent conferences have included Perth (Western Australia), Budapest, Saint Louis and Rotterdam, and plans are in hand for the next few years.

This year's conference will be hosted by the National Library Board of Singapore, 26 September–1 October, with the theme, *The Library as a Fusion Space: Possibilities and Opportunities*. Presentations and papers from Birmingham (UK), Brasov (Romania), Pittsburgh (USA), Shanghai (China), Utrecht (Netherlands), New South Wales and several other members will address such issues as strategic planning, new central library buildings, cultural diversity, public/university library collaboration, and the involvement of libraries in economic, social and cultural regeneration.

INTAMEL's lively and well attended open session at last year's IFLA Conference in Berlin will be followed up by the new Section's programme at WLIC 2004 Buenos Aires, where our theme will be *Metropolitan Libraries: Engines for Learning*. The presentations will focus mainly on services to Hispanic communities in the Americas and Europe.

INTAMEL also developed a valuable statistical service for its members. Each year, through the work of

the City Library of Hanover (Stadt-bibliothek Hannover), comparative statistical data from member libraries have been collated on stock and materials, acquisitions, loans, budgets, staffing, opening hours, etc. The annual publication of these statistics has enabled comparisons to be made between the resources and services of a number of large public libraries around the world.

Several members of INTAMEL have been involved with the Bertelsmann Foundation and its International Network of Public Libraries, and have made major contributions to its published Reports on such topics as cultural diversity, customer orientation, and staff development strategies for the hybrid library (<http://www.public-libraries.net>).

Networking of this kind has helped not only to support individual colleagues within INTAMEL, but also to create links with other libraries and institutions. Other benefits of the networking between INTAMEL members include visits, knowledge transfer, staff development initiatives, exchange of information, and participation in local and regional seminars and conferences, all of which can arise from the contacts and friendships made at INTAMEL conferences.

Several current key issues help to create bonds between the members of the Section. These include: management and leadership; the physical regeneration of cities; the planning of new main libraries (which can involve collaboration with such leading architects as Rem Koolhaas, Jo Coenen and Richard Rogers); social inclusion; customer focus (the library user as subject rather than object); self-service and RFID; the library as a learning centre; 'virtual' services; finance, of course – and the necessary re-invention that all this entails for large, complex public library systems that often serve numerous people living beyond the boundaries of the city itself, and which are expected to play a leading role within their own country, region or state.

The main channel for communication within the Section is the listserv INTLIB, for which the Section's Information Coordinator is the list owner (INTLIB@infoserve.inist.fr). The Section's web pages are on IFLANET at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s46/metro.htm>.

These carry the Singapore Conference programme and registration form, presentations made at the 2003 and 2002 Conferences in Rotterdam and Stockholm, officers' contact addresses, statistics, and other material. The pages will be further updated later this year.

Among the many significant papers given at INTAMEL Conferences, one to note from Rotterdam 2003 is *Municipal Library of Prague: One Year after the Floods*, a dramatic and illustrated account of how the Prague City Library coped with the floods disaster of August 2002 and of the lessons that were learnt about leadership, teamwork, communication – and how to survive a crisis (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s46/conf/rotterdam03.htm>).

Pending formal elections for the Section's Standing Committee, the current officers of INTAMEL remain in post for the interim period: Frans Meijer, President (Rotterdam), Aline Girard-Billon, Secretary (Paris), Tay Ai Cheng, Treasurer (Singapore), and Stuart Brewer, Information Coordinator (Newcastle upon Tyne).

Recruitment of membership to the Metropolitan Libraries Section is now in progress; application forms are available at <http://www.ifla.org/III/members/index.htm>, or printed information and application forms can be supplied by IFLA HQ. New or existing members of IFLA wanting to register for the Metropolitan Libraries Section may use the free Section registrations to which all members of IFLA are entitled. Or, if registration for MLS is additional to the free registration, the annual cost is EUR 48. (Metropolitan Libraries is no. 46 in the list of IFLA Sections.)

We look forward to enhancing our activities within IFLA, to working with other sections and divisions on issues of shared interest, and to meeting you at WLIC Buenos Ai-

res or at our Conference in Singapore.

Contact: Stuart Brewer, Information Coordinator, Metropolitan Li-

braries Section, 37 Moor Court, Westfield, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4YD UK. Tel/Fax: + 44 191 226 8540. E-mail: stuart@wressell.demon.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

2004

August 20–27, 2004. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

World Library and Information Congress: 70th IFLA General Conference and Council. *Theme:* Libraries: Tools for Education and Development.

For more information: Buenos Aires 2004, Argentine Organizing Committee, Asociación de Bibliotecarios, Graduados de la República Argentina. Tucumán 1424, 8° piso Of. D, C1050AAB, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Phone/Fax: +54(11) 4371-5269 or 4373-0571. E-mail: ifla2004@abgra.org.ar.

August 23–29, 2004. Vienna, Austria.

15th International Congress on Archives. *Theme:* Archives, Memory, and Knowledge.

More information: Evelyn Wareham, Programme Officer International Council on Archives (ICA), 60 rue des Francs Bourgeois, F-75003 Paris, France. Tel. +33 (0)1 40 27 61 37. Fax: +33 (0)1 42 72 20 65. E-mail: wareham@ica.org. Website: www.ica.org.

September 1, 2004. South Africa.

Books for Africa: IBBY Congress 2004.

Contact: Genevieve Hart, IBBY 2004 Programme Committee, South African Children's Book Forum, PO Box 847, Howard Place 7450, South Africa. sacbf@worldonline.co.za.

September 26–October 2, 2004. Singapore.

36th Conference of the Metropolitan Libraries Section of IFLA (formerly INTAMEL, the International Association of Metropolitan Libraries). *Theme:* The Library as a Fusion Space: possibilities and opportunities.

Further information: Ai Cheng TAY, National Library Board Singapore. Tel. + 65 6 332 3133. Fax: + 65 6 332 3611. E-mail: aicheng @nlb.gov.sg. Website: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s46/metro.htm>.

October 1–December 20, 2004. Brussels, Belgium.

STIMULATE 4. Scientific and Technological Information Management in Universities and Libraries: an Active Training Environment. (Edition 4)

Contact: Paul Nieuwenhuysen or Patrick Vanouplines, STIMULATE-ITP, University Library, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel. +32 2629 2429 (or 2609). Fax: +32 2 629 2693 (or 2282). Telex: 61051 vubco-b. E-mail (Internet): stimulate@vub.ac.be or Paul.Nieuwenhuysen@vub.ac.be or Patrick.Vanouplines@vub.ac.be.

October 12–16 2004. Shanghai, China.

2nd Shanghai International Library Forum. *Theme:* City development and library service.

Further information: Ms. Wu Min, Reader Service Center, Shanghai Library, 1555 Huai Hai Zhong Lu, Shanghai 200031, China. Fax: +86 (21) 6445 5006. E-mail: mwu@libnet.sh.cn. Website: <http://www.libnet.sh.cn/silf2004>.

October 13–16, 2004. Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

EEI21-2004 Memphis. The Ethics of Electronic Information in the 21st Century.

Further information: Tom Mendina, Chairman, EEI21 – 2004. E-mail: tmendina@memphis.edu. Website: <http://www.memphis.edu/ethics21>.

October 21–24, 2004. Ankara, Turkey,

Symposium 'The Saga of Librarianship'.

Further information: Prof. Dr. Sekine Karakas, Head, Department of Information Science and Records Management, Faculty of Letters, Ankara University. Tel. +90 312 310 32 80 / 1719, Fax: +90 312 310 57 13. Email: kb@humanity.ankara.edu.tr.

2–5 November, 2004. Sofia, Bulgaria.

Sofia 2004: Libraries, Globalization, and Cooperation.

2 November, 2004. Sofia, Bulgaria.

Pre-conference on Globalization and Cooperation Trends in Library and Information Science Education.

Further information:

Prof. Herbert Achleitner, School of Library & Information Management, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, USA. E-mail: achleith@emporia.edu. or

Prof. Alexander Dimchev, Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University, Bulgaria. E-mail: dimchev_uni@abv.bg. or

Brenda Hough, Sofia 2004 Promotion Director, School of Library & Information Management, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, USA. E-mail: houghbre@emporia.edu.

Website:

<http://slim.emporia.edu/globenet/sofia2004/index.htm>.

November 4–6, 2004. Torino, Italy

International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems.

Conference Chair: Nicola Guarino, ISTC-CNR, Trento, Italy. E-mail: nicola.guarino@loa-cnr.it. Conference website: <http://www.fois.org>.

2005

2005. Estonia.

9th Interlending and Document Supply Conference.

For more information: Josche Neven, IFLA Communications Manager, josche.neven@ifla.org

or:

Poul Erlandsen, Chair, IFLA Document Delivery and Interlending Section, poer@dpu.dk.

February 1-3, 2005. Sydney, Australia.

Information Online 2005, 12th Conference and Exhibition.

Further information: Mary Anne Kennan, 4 Tahlee Street, Burwood, NSW 2134, Australia. Website: <http://conferences.alia.org.au/online2005/>.

August 20-26, 2005. Oslo, Norway.

World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council. *Theme:* Libraries: a voyage of discovery; linking the future to the past. *For more information:* IFLA 2005 Oslo Secretariat, Ann Margret Hauknes, Secretary General, Norwegian Library Association, Malerhaugveien 20, N-0661 Oslo, Norway. Tel: +47 23243430. Fax: +47 22672368. E-mail: IFLA2005@norskbibliotekforening.no.

2006

August 22-28, 2006. Seoul, Korea.

World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council.

For more information: IFLA Headquarters, POB 95312, 2509 CH, The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel. +31 70 314-0884. Fax: + 31 70 383-4827.

2007

Durban, South Africa, 2007.

World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA Council and General Conference.

Further information from: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands. Tel. +31 (70) 3140884. Fax: +31 (70) 3834827. E-mail: IFLA@ifla.org. Website: <http://ifla.inist.fr/index.htm>.

ABSTRACTS

These abstracts may be reproduced without charge.

Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann. **Libraries in Argentina: an overview.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 108–128

Provides a detailed overview of the development of all kinds of libraries in Argentina since the first public and private libraries were set up in schools and monasteries from 1610 onwards. Published to mark the 70th General Conference and Council of IFLA, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2002.

Eliades Acosta Matos. **National libraries in Iberoamerica: from challenge to commitment.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 129–133

Discusses the cultural role assumed by the national libraries in Iberoamerica and the significant integration work done by the Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales (Association of Iberoamerican Countries for the Development of National Libraries) (ABINIA). The main challenges faced by the institutions of the regions are outlined, focusing on the problems posed by preservation, the exchange of information and institutional relationships.

César Castro Aliaga. **Library services for Latin American indigenous populations.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 134–140

Presents a panorama of library services for indigenous peoples of Latin America, based on the reports of meetings on indigenous libraries held in Mexico, 2000 and Peru (2003). Provides brief descriptions of projects and programs in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Concludes that: there is an increasing interest in Latin America in the situation of the indigenous populations; the Intercultural Bilingual Education Program has proved an excellent tool for developing library services into

indigenous populations; activities related to indigenous library services in the region are still not sufficient to cater for the needs of large indigenous populations in countries like Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil; in most countries library activities for indigenous peoples have not been incorporated in national or regional library plans; more information is needed on experiences related to the development of library services for the indigenous peoples of the region.

Grete Pasch and Diana Miranda-Murillo. **Information technology in Central American libraries.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 141–149

Central America is a region of geographic, political, social, cultural and economic contrasts. While many libraries lack the means to embark on information technology related projects, many others have found ways to implement Internet services and web-based catalogs with the help of local or international sponsors. Given the lack of current statistics, the authors discuss the context in which libraries operate and describe a sample of regional library webpages, including the offer of online catalogs, local library system development, database searching, and digital publishing of local resources in various formats.

Victor Federico Torres. **The need for research and publishing on the Hispanic Caribbean.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 150–155

Examines library and information science publishing output in the Hispanic Caribbean. Stresses the importance of research and publishing for library professionals and suggests potential reference sources needed in the area. Venues to publish are discussed along with strategies and opportunities to conduct research. Library organizations need to play a more aggressive role in order to publish or sponsor publications relevant

to libraries and librarians from the Hispanic Caribbean.

Saadia Sánchez Vegas. **Knowledge management: intellectual capital and social capital. An approach for Latin America.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 156–165

Considers knowledge management as an emerging new organizational logic and practice with its foundations in the new information and communication technologies. Presents a proposal to reconfigure LIS theory and practice in Latin American countries in order to promote a systematic and integral approach to knowledge management. Intellectual capital must be developed and used to promote social development. Proposes an integral model for the organization of information and knowledge, defined as Organizational Infoarchitecture, a learning environment adapted to the needs of individuals, teams and organizations. Introduces the concept of social capital as an aid to designing information policies, programs and actions, and underlines its strategic character as a factor in social, economic, political and cultural development in the Latin American region. Concludes that organizational design based on knowledge management is instrumental for the development of both human and social capital inside organizations and nations. Information professionals can play a role in transforming information into knowledge and providing support to innovative, creative, and productive decision-making processes.

Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho. **Activities of the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.** IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 166–174

Describes the activities of the Regional Office and IFLA Section for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Advancement of Librarianship Program (ALP) and the most impor-

tant activities organized in the region. Gives an overview of the professional associations that encompass Latin American librarians, their major issues, their cooperative activities and

their relationship with IFLA. Focuses on librarians' role in the information society as it looks for devices that may prioritize and change the use of information in any area of human

knowledge, thus rendering it essential in the quest for a better and more dignified life for our people and a tool that may have an impact on the social and economic changes that we wish.

SOMMAIRES

Les sommaires analytiques peut être reproduites sans frais.

Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann. **Libraries in Argentina: an overview.** [Les bibliothèques en Argentine : un aperçu.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 108-128

Donne un aperçu détaillé du développement de toutes sortes de bibliothèques en Argentine, depuis la création des premières bibliothèques publiques et privées au sein d'écoles et de monastères en 1610. Publié pour marquer la 70^{ième} Conférence Générale et l'Assemblée de l'IFLA, tenue à Buenos Aires, Argentine, au mois d'août 2002.

Eliades Acosta Matos. **National libraries in Iberoamerica: from challenge to commitment.** [Les bibliothèques nationales hispano-américaines : du défi à l'engagement.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 129-133

Parle du rôle culturel assumé par les bibliothèques nationales hispano-américaines et le travail significatif d'intégration effectué par l'Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales (l'Association des Pays Hispano-américains pour le Développement de Bibliothèques Nationales) (ABINIA). Les principaux défis rencontrés par les régions ont été exposés, en focalisant sur les problèmes posés par la conservation, l'échange d'information et les relations institutionnelles.

César Castro Aliaga. **Library services for Latin American indigenous populations.** [Les services bibliothécaires pour des population indigènes d'Amérique Latine.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 134-140

Présente un panorama de services bibliothécaires pour les indigènes d'Amérique Latine, à base de rapports des réunions sur les bibliothèques indigènes tenues au Mexique (2000) et au Pérou (2003). Donne de

courtes descriptions de projets et de programmes en Bolivie, au Brésil, en Colombie, au Chili, en Equateur, au Guatemala, au Mexique, au Pérou et au Venezuela. Conclut : qu'en Amérique Latine, il y a un intérêt grandissant pour la situation des populations indigènes ; le Programme d'Education Interculturelle Bilingue s'est avéré un excellent outil pour le développement de services bibliothécaires pour les populations indigènes ; les activités liées aux services bibliothécaires indigènes dans la région ne suffisent pas encore pour pourvoir aux besoins de grandes populations indigènes dans des pays tels que la Bolivie, le Pérou, le Mexique, le Guatemala et le Brésil ; dans la plupart des pays, les activités bibliothécaires pour des populations indigènes n'ont pas été incorporées dans des plans pour les bibliothèques nationales ou régionales ; il faut davantage d'informations sur les expériences relatives au développement de services bibliothécaires pour les populations indigènes de la région.

Grete Pasch et Diana Miranda-Murillo. **Information technology in Central American libraries.** [La Technologie de l'information dans les bibliothèques d'Amérique Centrale.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 141-149

L'Amérique Centrale est une région de contrastes géographiques, politiques, sociales, culturelles et économiques. Tandis que beaucoup de bibliothèques manquent de moyens pour participer à des projets liés aux technologies de l'information, beaucoup d'autres ont trouvé des façons pour instaurer des services Internet et des catalogues sur réseau à l'aide de sponsors locaux ou internationaux. Etant donné le manque de statistiques actuelles, les auteurs parlent du contexte dans lequel les bibliothèques agissent et décrivent un échantillon de pages Internet de bibliothèques régionales, comprenant l'offre de catalogues en ligne, le développement du système des bibliothèques locales, la recher-

che dans les bases de données et la publication digitale de ressources locales dans des formats variés.

Victor Federico Torres. **The need for research and publishing on the Hispanic Caribbean.** [Les besoins de recherche et de publication sur la région hispanique des Caraïbes.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 150-155

Examine la production de publication des bibliothèques et des sciences de l'information dans la région hispanique des Caraïbes. Accentue l'importance de la recherche et de la publication pour les bibliothécaires professionnels et suggère les ressources de référence potentiellement nécessaires dans cette zone. Les lieux de publication forment l'objet, mais aussi les stratégies et les opportunités pour conduire la recherche. Les organisations bibliothécaires doivent jouer un rôle plus agressif afin de publier ou de sponsoriser la publication pertinente pour les bibliothèques et les bibliothécaires de la région hispanique des Caraïbes.

Saadia Sánchez Vegas. **Knowledge management: intellectual capital and social capital. An approach for Latin America.** [La gestion des connaissances : le capital intellectuel et le capital social. Une approche pour l'Amérique Latine.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 156-165

Une réflexion sur la gestion des connaissances en tant que nouvelle logique et pratique organisationnelle émergente, basée sur les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication. La présentation d'une proposition de reconfiguration de la théorie de la BSI et la situation pratique dans les pays d'Amérique Latine afin de promouvoir une approche systématique et intégrale de la gestion des connaissances. Il faut développer et utiliser le capital intellectuel afin de promouvoir le développement social. La proposition d'un modèle intégral pour l'organisa-

tion de l'information et des connaissances, défini comme l'Architecture organisationnelle de l'information, un environnement d'apprentissage adapté aux besoins individuels, d'équipes et d'organisations. L'introduction du concept du capital social en tant qu'aide à la conception de politiques, de programmes et d'actions d'information, et l'accentuation du caractère stratégique en tant que facteur du développement social, économique, politique et culturel dans la région d'Amérique Latine. La conclusion que la conception organisationnelle basée sur la gestion des connaissances forme un outil pour le développement humain et social au sein d'organisations et de pays. Les professionnels de l'information peuvent

jouer un rôle dans la transformation des informations en connaissances et en fournissant du support aux processus décisionnels innovateurs, créatifs et productifs.

Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho.
Activities of the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. [Les activités du Bureau Régional d'IFLA pour l'Amérique Latine et la région des Caraïbes.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) No. 2, p. 166–174

Décrit les activités du Bureau régional et de la Section de l'IFLA pour l'Amérique Latine et la région des Caraïbes, l'Avancement du pro-

gramme des bibliothécaires (ALP) et les activités les plus importantes organisées dans la région. Donne un aperçu des associations professionnelles entourant les bibliothécaires en Amérique Latine, leurs principaux sujets, leurs activités de coopération et leur relation avec l'IFLA. Focalise sur le rôle des bibliothécaires dans la société de l'information grâce à la recherche de dispositifs pouvant favoriser et modifier l'utilisation de l'information dans n'importe quel domaine des connaissances humaines, afin de le rendre essentiel dans la quête d'une vie meilleure et plus digne de nos gens et un outil avec un impact éventuel sur les modifications sociales et économiques que nous souhaitons.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNGEN

Diese Zusammenfassungen können gebührenfrei vervielfältigt werden.

Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann. **Libraries in Argentina: an overview. [Bibliotheken in Argentinien: ein Überblick.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2, S. 108–128

Dieser Artikel bietet einen detaillierten Überblick über die Entwicklung des Bibliothekswesens in Argentinien seit der Eröffnung der ersten öffentlichen und privaten Bibliotheken in Schulen und Klöstern im Jahr 1610. Veröffentlicht anlässlich der „70th General Conference and Council of IFLA“ [der 70. allgemeinen Konferenz und Ratssitzung der IFLA] in Buenos Aires, Argentinien, im August 2002.

Eliades Acosta Matos. **National libraries in Iberoamerica: from challenge to commitment. [Nationalbibliotheken in Lateinamerika: Von der Herausforderung zum Engagement.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2, S. 129–133

Hierbei geht es um die kulturelle Rolle der Nationalbibliotheken in Lateinamerika sowie die signifikanten Integrationsbemühungen der Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales (Verband der Lateinamerikanischen Länder zur Entwicklung der Nationalbibliotheken) (ABINIA). Dabei werden die primären Herausforderungen beschrieben, mit denen sich die Institutionen in diesen Regionen konfrontiert sehen, wobei in erster Linie die Probleme im Zusammenhang mit der Konservierung, dem Informationsaustausch und den institutionellen Verhältnissen im Vordergrund stehen.

César Castro Aliaga. **Library services for Latin American indigenous populations. [Bibliotheksdienstleistungen für einheimische Bevölkerungen in Lateinamerika.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2, S. 134–140

Die Autoren präsentieren ein Panorama von Bibliotheksdienstleistungen für die ursprünglichen Einwohner Lateinamerikas. Sie stützen sich dabei auf Berichte von Konferenzen über einheimische Bibliotheken in Mexiko (2000) und Peru (2003). Hinzu kommen Kurzbeschreibungen entsprechender Projekte und Programme in Bolivien, Brasilien, Kolumbien, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexiko, Peru und Venezuela. Die Schlussfolgerung läuft darauf hinaus, dass durchaus ein zunehmendes Interesse an der Situation der einheimischen Bevölkerung in Lateinamerika zu verzeichnen ist. Das Intercultural Bilingual Education Program [das interkulturelle zweisprachige Bildungsprogramm] ist, so zeigt die Praxis, ein hervorragendes Mittel zur Entwicklung von Bibliotheksdienstleistungen für die einheimische Bevölkerung. Die einzelnen Bemühungen im Zusammenhang mit den einheimischen Bibliotheksdiensten in dieser Region sind jedoch immer noch nicht hinreichend, um den Bedürfnissen großer einheimischer Völker in Ländern wie Bolivien, Peru, Mexiko, Guatemala und Brasilien gerecht werden zu können. In den meisten Ländern ist das Bibliothekswesen für die einheimischen Völker nicht in die nationalen oder regionalen Bibliothekspläne eingegangen. Daher werden weitere Informationen über die bisherigen Erfahrungen mit der Entwicklung von Bibliotheksdienstleistungen für die einheimischen Völker dieser Region benötigt.

Grete Pasch und Diana Miranda-Murillo. **Information technology in Central American libraries. [Informationstechnologie in den Bibliotheken der mittelamerikanischen Länder.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2, S. 141–149

Mittelamerika ist eine Region der geographischen, politischen, sozialen, kulturellen und wirtschaftlichen Kontraste. Während vielen Bibliotheken die nötigen Mittel fehlen, um

sich mit Projekten im Rahmen der Informationstechnologie befassen zu können, haben viele andere Bibliotheken Mittel und Wege gefunden, mit Hilfe örtlicher oder internationaler Sponsoren Internet-Dienstleistungen sowie Web-Kataloge einzuführen. Da keine aktuellen Statistiken vorliegen, besprechen die Autoren den Kontext, in dem sich die Bibliotheken betätigen, und beschreiben auch einige Webseiten von Bibliotheken aus dieser Region, einschließlich der angebotenen Online-Kataloge, die Entwicklung der örtlichen Bibliothekssysteme, der Datenbanksuche sowie der digitalen Veröffentlichung lokaler Ressourcen in unterschiedlichem Format.

Victor Federico Torres. **The need for research and publishing on the Hispanic Caribbean. [Die Notwendigkeit von Forschungs- und Publikationsbemühungen in der hispanischen Karibik.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2, S. 150–155

Der Autor untersucht die Veröffentlichungsergebnisse der Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft in der hispanischen Karibik. Er unterstreicht dabei die wichtige Rolle der Forschungs- und Publikationsbemühungen für die im Bibliothekswesen professionell Tätigen und beschreibt auch potenzielle Bezugsquellen, die in diesem Bereich benötigt werden. Zur Sprache kommen dabei Orte für die Publikation sowie Strategien und Möglichkeiten für die Forschung. Die Bibliotheksorganisationen sollten sich nach Auffassung des Autors stärker durchsetzen, um Publikationen zu veröffentlichen oder zu sponsern, die für die Bibliotheken und Bibliothekare aus der hispanischen Karibik relevant sind.

Saadia Sánchez Vegas. **Knowledge management: intellectual capital and social capital. An approach for Latin America. [Informationsmanagement: Intellektuelles Kapital**

und soziales Kapital. Eine Strategie für Lateinamerika.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2 S. 156–165

Diese Publikation betrachtet das Informationsmanagement als eine neue und in der Entwicklung begriffene organisatorische Logik und Praxis, die aus den neuen Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien erwächst. Die Autorin präsentiert einen Vorschlag zur Neukonfigurierung der LIS-Theorie und Praxis in den Ländern Lateinamerikas, um für ein systematisches, integrales Verfahren für das Informationsmanagement zu werben. Dabei muss intellektuelles Kapital entwickelt und auch genutzt werden, um die soziale Entwicklung zu fördern. Der Artikel beschreibt ein integrales Modell zur Organisation von Information und Wissen, definiert als "Organizational Infoarchitecture" [organisatorische Infoarchitektur], eine Lernumgebung, die auf die Bedürfnisse der einzelnen Menschen, Teams und Organisationen abgestimmt ist. Dabei wird das Konzept des sozialen Kapitals als Hilfsmittel zur Gestaltung von In-

formationsstrategien, Programmen und Maßnahmen eingeführt. Zudem wird der strategische Charakter als Faktor der sozialen, wirtschaftlichen, politischen und kulturellen Entwicklung in der lateinamerikanischen Region unterstrichen. Die Schlussfolgerung läuft darauf hinaus, dass die organisatorische Gestaltung auf der Grundlage des Informationsmanagements ausgesprochen wichtig für die Entwicklung des innerhalb der Organisationen und Nationen vorhandenen menschlichen und sozialen Kapitals ist. Informationswissenschaftler können bei der Übertragung von Informationen in konkrete Kenntnisse eine Rolle spielen, und sie können innovative, kreative und produktive Entscheidungsprozesse unterstützen.

Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho.
Activities of the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. [Aktivitäten des regionalen IFLA-Büros für Lateinamerika und die Karibik.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) Nr. 2, S. 166–174

Die Autorin beschreibt die Aktivitäten des Regionalbüros und der IFLA-Sektion für Lateinamerika und die Karibik, das "Advancement of Librarianship Program (ALP)" [Programm zur Förderung der Bibliothekare] sowie die wichtigsten der in dieser Region organisierten Tätigkeiten. Der Artikel bietet einen Überblick über die professionellen Verbände, die auch für die Bibliothekare in Lateinamerika zuständig sind, die wesentlichen Themen in diesem Zusammenhang, ihre kooperativen Aktivitäten und ihr Verhältnis zur IFLA. Im Mittelpunkt steht dabei die Rolle der Bibliothekare innerhalb der Informationsgesellschaft auf ihrer Suche nach Möglichkeiten zur Vorgabe von Prioritäten und Änderung der Nutzung vorliegender Informationen in allen Bereichen menschlichen Wissens. Dies ist somit eine unabdingbare Voraussetzung unserer Bemühungen um ein besseres und würdigeres Leben für unsere Menschen und gleichzeitig ein Werkzeug, das sich stark auf die von uns erwünschten sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Veränderungen auswirken kann.

RESÚMENES

Se puede reproducir estas resúmenes sin gastos.

Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann. **Libraries in Argentina: an overview. [Bibliotecas en Argentina: una perspectiva general.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 108–128

Ofrece una perspectiva detallada del desarrollo de toda clase de bibliotecas en Argentina desde que se fundaron las primeras bibliotecas públicas y privadas en las escuelas y monasterios desde 1610 en adelante. Este libro se publicó coincidiendo con la 70ava Conferencia y Consejo General de la IFLA, celebrada en Buenos Aires, Argentina, en agosto de 2002.

Eliades Acosta Matos. **National libraries in Iberoamerica: from challenge to commitment. [Bibliotecas nacionales en Iberoamérica: del reto al compromiso.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 129–133

Debate el papel cultural asumido por las bibliotecas nacionales en Iberoamérica y la destacada labor de integración llevada a cabo por la Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales (ABINIA). Los retos principales a los que se enfrentan las instituciones de las regiones aparecen esbozados, centrándose en los problemas que presentan la conservación, intercambio de información y las relaciones institucionales.

César Castro Aliaga. **Library Services for Latin American indigenous populations. [Servicios de biblioteca para las poblaciones indígenas de Latinoamérica.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 134–140

Presenta un panorama de los servicios de bibliotecas para las poblaciones indígenas de Latinoamérica, basándose en los informes de las reuniones de las bibliotecas indígenas celebradas en México en 2000 y en Perú en 2003. Ofrece además descripciones breves de proyectos y progra-

mas en Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Méjico, Perú y Venezuela. El libro concluye con que: existe un interés en aumento en Latino-América por la situación de las poblaciones indígenas; el Programa de Educación Bilingüe Intercultural ha demostrado ser una excelente herramienta para desarrollar servicios de biblioteca en poblaciones indígenas; las actividades relacionadas con servicios bibliotecarios para indígenas en la región siguen siendo insuficientes para satisfacer las necesidades de grandes poblaciones indígenas en países como Bolivia, Perú, Méjico, Guatemala y Brasil; en la mayoría de estos países no se han incorporado actividades bibliotecarias dirigidas a poblaciones indígenas en los planes nacionales y regionales para bibliotecas; se necesita más información sobre experiencias relacionadas con el desarrollo de servicios de biblioteca para las poblaciones indígenas de la región.

Grete Pasch y Diana Miranda-Murillo. **Information technology in Central American libraries. [Tecnología de la información en las bibliotecas de América Central.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 141–149

América Central es una región de fuertes contraste geográficos, políticos, sociales, culturales y económicos. Mientras que muchas bibliotecas carecen de los medios para emprender proyectos relacionados con la tecnología de la información, muchas otras han encontrado vías de implementar servicios por Internet y catálogos basados en la Web con la ayuda de patrocinadores locales e internacionales. Dada la ausencia de estadísticas actuales, los autores debaten el contexto en el que operan las bibliotecas y describen un muestrario de páginas web de bibliotecas regionales, incluyendo la oferta de catálogos on line, el desarrollo del sistema de bibliotecas locales, la búsqueda de base de datos, y la publicación digital de recursos locales en varios formatos.

Victor Federico Torres. **The need for research and publishing on the Hispanic Caribbean. [La necesidad de investigación y publicaciones en el Caribe hispano.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 150–155

Examina el volumen de publicaciones sobre biblioteconomía y documentación en el Caribe hispano. El autor acentúa la importancia de la investigación y las publicaciones para los profesionales en biblioteconomía y sugiere la necesidad de fuentes de referencia potenciales en la zona. Se debaten los lugares adecuados para las publicaciones juntamente con las estrategias y las oportunidades de llevar a cabo investigaciones. Las organizaciones bibliotecarias han de desempeñar un papel más agresivo con el fin de publicar o patrocinar publicaciones concernientes a bibliotecas y bibliotecarios de la zona del Caribe hispano.

Saadia Sánchez Vegas. **Knowledge management: intellectual capital and social capital. An approach for Latin America. [Gestión del conocimiento: capital intelectual y capital social. Un enfoque en Latinoamérica.]**

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 156–165

Considera la gestión del conocimiento como una práctica emergente y novedosa de organización que tiene sus cimientos en las nuevas tecnologías de la información y la comunicación. El libro presenta una propuesta para reconfigurar la teoría y práctica de LIS en los países latinoamericanos con el fin de promover un enfoque sistemático e integral hacia la gestión del conocimiento. El capital intelectual debe ser desarrollado y utilizado para fomentar el desarrollo social. El autor propone un modelo integral para la organización de la información y el conocimiento, definido como una Infoarquitectura organizativa, un entorno de aprendizaje adaptado a las necesidades de

individuos, equipos y organizaciones. Introduce el concepto de capital social como una ayuda para diseñar políticas, programas y medidas de información, y subraya su carácter estratégico como un factor crucial en el avance social, económico, político y cultural para la zona de Latinoamérica. El libro concluye afirmando que el diseño organizativo basado en la gestión del conocimiento es fundamental para el desarrollo del capital humano y social en la estructura interna de las organizaciones y países. Los profesionales de la información pueden desempeñar un papel importante en la transformación de la información en conocimiento y ofrecer su apoyo a los procesos in-

novadores, creativos y productivos de la toma de decisiones.

Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho. **Activities of the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.** [Actividades de la Oficina Regional de IFLA para Latinoamérica y el Caribe.]

IFLA Journal 30 (2004) N° 2, p. 166–174

Describe las actividades de la Oficina Regional y la Sección de la IFLA para Latinoamérica y el Caribe, el Fomento del Programa de Bibliotecas (ALP, siglas en inglés) y las actividades más importantes organizadas en la región. Este libro aporta

asimismo una perspectiva de las asociaciones profesionales que engloban a las bibliotecas Latinoamericanas, los asuntos principales que han de tratar, sus actividades de cooperación y sus relaciones con la IFLA. Se centra en el papel de los bibliotecarios en la sociedad de la información al mismo tiempo que busca dispositivos que pueden dar prioridad y cambiar el uso de información en cualquier área del conocimiento humano, resultando un elemento esencial en la búsqueda de una vida mejor y más digna para nuestra gente y una herramienta que puede repercutir en los cambios sociales y económicos que deseamos para nuestros países.

Рефераты статей

Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann. **Libraries in Argentina: an overview.** [Ана Мария Перучена Циммерманн] **[Библиотеки в Аргентине: обзор]** Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 108–128

Предлагается детальное обозрение развития всех типов библиотек в Аргентине, начиная с 1610 г., когда при школах и монастырях были организованы первые публичные и частные библиотеки. Публикация приурочена к 70-й Генеральной конференции и заседанию Совета ИФЛА, состоявшимся в Буэнос-Айресе, Аргентина в августе 2002 года.

Eliades Acosta Matos. **National libraries in Iberoamerica: from challenge to commitment.** [Элиадес Акоста Матос] **[Национальные библиотеки в Латинской Америке: от постановки проблемных задач к обязательному их выполнению]** Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 129–133

Обсуждается та культурная роль, которую принимают на себя национальные библиотеки стран Латинской Америки, а также та значимая интеграционная работа, которую проводит Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales [Ассоциация Латиноамериканских стран по развитию национальных библиотек] (ABINIA). Перечисляются наиболее сложные задачи, которые стоят перед соответствующими учреждениями региона, при этом акцент делается на проблемах сохранения материалов, информационного обмена и межинституционального взаимодействия.

César Castro Aliaga. **Library services for Latin American indigenous populations.** [Цезар Кастро Алиага] **[Библиотечные услуги для коренного населения стран Латинской Америки]** Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 134–140

Представлено обозрение библиотечных услуг для коренного населения

стран Латинской Америки на основе отчетов о встречах представителей библиотек для коренного населения, состоявшихся в Мексике в 2000 г. и Перу в 2003 г. Представлено краткое описание проектов и программ, осуществляемых в Боливии, Бразилии, Колумбии, Чили, Эквадоре, Гватемале, Мексике, Перу и Венесуэле. Делаются следующие выводы: в Латинской Америке отмечается растущий интерес к положению коренного населения; Межкультурная программа двуязычного образования доказала, что является эффективным инструментом развития библиотечных услуг для коренного населения; деятельность по внедрению библиотечных услуг для коренного населения в регионе все еще недостаточна для удовлетворения потребностей больших групп коренного населения в таких странах, как Боливия, Перу, Мексика, Гватемала и Бразилия; в большинстве стран библиотечные услуги для коренного населения не были инкорпорированы в национальные и региональные планы развития библиотечного дела; ощущается потребность в большем объеме информации об опыте развития библиотечных услуг для коренного населения региона.

Grete Pasch and Diana Miranda-Murillo. **Information technology in Central American libraries.** [Грете Паш и Диана Миранда-Мурилло] **[Информационные технологии в библиотеках стран Центральной Америки]** Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 141–149

Центральная Америка – это регион географических, политических, социальных, культурных и экономических контрастов. В то время как многие библиотеки испытывают дефицит средств на осуществления проектов в области информационных технологий, другим удастся изыскать возможности для внедрения сетевых решений и web-каталогов при помощи местных и международных спонсоров. В связи с отсутствием текущей статистики авторы анализируют

контекст, в котором действуют библиотеки, а также описывают образцы web-страниц региональных библиотек в Интернете, включая предложения онлайн-каталогов, дают информацию о системном развитии местных библиотек, поиске в базах данных, цифровом издательстве локальных ресурсов в различных форматах.

Victor Federico Torres. **The need for research and publishing on the Hispanic Caribbean.** [Виктор Федерико Торрес] **[Необходимость исследований и издательской деятельности в испаноязычных странах Карибского бассейна]** Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 150–155

Исследуется объем публикаций по информатике в библиотеках испаноязычных стран Карибского бассейна. Подчеркивается важность исследовательской и издательской деятельности для профессионалов библиотечного дела, и предлагаются потенциальные опорные источники, необходимые в данной области. Рассматриваются особенности осуществления издательской деятельности, а также обсуждаются стратегия и возможности по проведению исследований. Библиотечным организациям необходимо играть более агрессивную роль в целях осуществления издательской деятельности или спонсирования публикаций, относящихся к библиотекам и специалистам библиотечного дела из испаноязычных стран Карибского бассейна.

Saadia Sánchez Vegas. **Knowledge management: intellectual capital and social capital. An approach for Latin America.** [Саадия Санчес Вегас] **[Управление знаниями: интеллектуальный капитал и социальный капитал. Подход для Латинской Америки]** Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 156–165

Управление знаниями рассматривается в качестве возникающей новой организационной логики и практики

с его основами в новых информационных и коммуникационных технологиях. Представлено предложение по реконфигурации теории и практики LIS в странах Латинской Америки с целью продвижения систематического и интегрального подхода к управлению знаниями. Интеллектуальный капитал должен развиваться и использоваться для стимулирования социального развития. Предлагается интегральная модель для организации информации и знаний, определяемая как *Организационная инфоархитектура*, являющаяся учебной средой, адаптированной под нужды индивидуумов, групп и организаций. Вводится концепция социального капитала в качестве вспомогательного средства при планировании информационной политики, программ и видов деятельности, подчеркивается ее стратегический характер как фактора в социальном, экономическом, политическом и культурном

развитии латиноамериканского региона. Делается вывод о том, что организационное устройство, основанное на управлении знаниями, будет способствовать развитию как человеческого, так и социального капитала в рамках организаций и наций. Профессионалы в области информатики могут играть определенную роль в преобразовании информации в знания и обеспечении поддержки инновационным, творческим и продуктивным компонентам процессов принятия решений.

Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho. **Activities of the IFLA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.** [Элизабет Мария Рамос де Карвальо] [Деятельность регионального офиса ИФЛА для Латинской Америки и стран бассейна Карибского моря] Журнал ИФЛА 30 (2004) № 2, с. 166–174

Описывается деятельность регионального офиса и отделения ИФЛА для Латинской Америки и стран бассейна Карибского моря, Программа продвижения библиотечного дела (ALP), а также наиболее важные направления деятельности, организованные в данном регионе. Предлагается обзор профессиональных ассоциаций, охватывающих специалистов библиотечного дела Латинской Америки, их сферу компетенции, совместные проекты и отношения с ИФЛА. Делается акцент на роли библиотекарей в информационном обществе, где ведется поиск средств, способных приоритезировать и изменять использование информации в любой области человеческих знаний, делая ее, таким образом, незаменимой в поиске лучшей и более достойной жизни для людей, а также инструментом, который может иметь воздействие на желаемые нами социально-экономические изменения.

Notes for Contributors

Aims and Scope

The IFLA Journal aims to promote and support the aims and core values of IFLA as the global voice of the library and information profession by providing authoritative coverage and analysis of (a) the activities of IFLA and its various constituent bodies and members, and those of other bodies with similar aims and interests and (b) completed, ongoing and proposed policies, plans and programmes related to the development of library and information services around the world.

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Articles and features

Articles and features are subject to review by the Editorial Committee. Articles and features are normally published only in English. Authors whose first language is not English should not be inhibited from submitting contributions in English because of this; the correction of minor grammatical and linguistic errors in English is considered to be an integral part of the editorial process.

There is no rigid stipulation regarding the length of articles and features, but they should normally not be less than 2000 words in length. Contributions of more than 15,000 words may be published in two or more parts in successive issues.

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Bibliographical references

References should follow the full form stipulated in ISO 690-1975, Documentation – bibliographical references – essential and supplementary elements, using either the numeric or the Harvard method of citation in the text. Lists of references should appear at the end of a contribution, not as footnotes.

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Submission

All contributions (except advertisements), in whatever format, should be addressed to: Stephen Parker, Editor, IFLA Journal, c/o IFPRI-ISNAR Program, ILRI, PO Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel. +251 1 463 215; Fax: +251 1 461 252/464 645. E-mail: zest@bart.nl