



International Leads

A Publication of the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association

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American Librarians At the IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston

Editor's notes: at the IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston, over 1,300 American delegates participated in sessions and meetings. American librarians had a largest presence at the conference, among the total number of over 5,300 attendees. American delegates demonstrated their hospitality, enthusiasm, and commitment to the organization through their hard work. In this report, I invite three of such individuals to share their experience at the IFLA Conference. Sha Li Zhang, Editor.

From Nancy John --

The 2001 IFLA Conference in Boston marked the end of ten years of holding office in IFLA, and so the excitement of having the conference on my home land for the first time since 1985 was tempered by the sadness of finishing up the IFLA work that I have so enjoyed. Like so many of us, the approaching end of a term brings the need to tie up loose ends, and I was pleased to have several hopes and goals for IFLA be realized in Boston.

— Amid the excitement of the Boston conference was one concern. While U.S. colleagues alone would have made this a very large conference, the tightening U.S. visa restrictions were of great concern to the organizers and threatened to limit the diversity of attendees. Nancy Anderson

Durbin (IL) were instrumental in making that happen.

— IFLA has long needed a stronger public relations program on behalf of libraries and librarians. Considering IFLA's modest budget, the IFLA staff do very well. But the money required to launch a major international campaign has put it out of IFLA's reach. Due to a generous gift of the American Library Association, the ALA Campaign for America's Libraries has gone global and the Campaign for the World's Libraries co-sponsored by IFLA and ALA is



Nancy John of University of Illinois at Chicago and Peter Young of the Library of Congress chat at an IFLA Reception held at the Massachusetts State House. (Photo: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)

(University of Illinois, Urbana) with help from her subcommittee, IFLA headquarters and Congrex (the conference managing firm), got more than 155 countries represented at the conference, an IFLA record. ALA itself worked diligently to get three colleagues from Cuba to the conference. Senators Shumer (NY) and

underway. The campaign has already been adopted in Iceland, Italy and Turkey. Several other countries, notably Mexico, have expressed strong interest in joining.

— IFLA has established a new Corporate Partners Council that will be a place for the commercial community to work with IFLA. This formalization of linkage will be very important to IFLA's future. The inaugural meeting took place in Boston. Gary Strong of Queensborough

Public Library in New York will be the member coordinator of this new Council.

— ALA's recent efforts to help the Cuban Library Association (ASCUBI) to improve libraries, library education and the library profession in Cuba were formalized in the signing of the Joint Protocol to cooperate. For details see the IRC Chair's report in this issue.

Leaving IFLA service after fourteen years is sad, but the feeling that one has made concrete contributions to make IFLA a stronger federation is very satisfying. (*Nancy John is the ALA's IRC Chair*)

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IFLA 2001 Conference

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From H. Lea Wells--

Working the ALA Booth at IFLA was a grand way to meet our international neighbors. In a two-hour period librarians from around the world came to me, actually to ALA's materials, and I was fortunate enough to talk to many of them. Librarians came for free material and for ideas. They came to meet each other and to admire and buy the READ posters that are so popular within and beyond our borders.

As I stood beneath the LEA poster of Enrique Iglesias, one of the most popular of the READ posters that sold out early in the conference, I laughed with Spanish-speaking colleagues about my name meaning "read" in Spanish, quite an appropriate name for a librarian I think. Together we admired the celebrities who graced the posters encouraging reading around the world. This is truly a case of a picture being worth a thousand words when the message being conveyed crosses language as well as geographic boundaries.

Visitors collected bookmarks, the latest issue of *American Libraries*, and the publicity packet for the international "@ your library" campaign. They sought information on becoming an international member of ALA and received my encouragement to join IRRT as well. (*H. Lea Wells is the ALA's IRRT Chair*)

From Wanda Dole --

At the IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston, a good number of American librarians were elected to serve in the organization. Winston Tabb at the Library of Congress is the chair of the new Professional Committee and thus a member of the Executive Committee of the Governing Board. Sally McCallum, also at the Library of Congress, became a member of the Governing Board. Mary



Above: Michael Dowling, Director of ALA /IRO, at the IFLA Conference site.

Below: One of the U.S. librarian volunteers gives directions to an international attendee at the IFLA Conference.

(Photos: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)



Jackson at ARL was elected chair of Division 5 (Collections and Services) and thus a member of the Professional Committee. John Day of Gaullaudet University was elected chair of Division 3 (Libraries Serving the General Public) and thus a member of the Professional Committee in Boston.

In addition, other American librarians were elected chairs of Sections: Science and Technology Libraries (Julia Gelfand, UC Irvine), Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons (John Day, Gaullaudet), Acquisitions and Collection Development (Nancy Davenport, Library of Congress), Document Delivery (Mary Jackson, ARL), Serial Publications (Marjorie

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Message from the IRRT Chair

By H. Lea Wells

Never have librarians needed to know more about peoples and nations of the world. Never have citizens needed information more than during times that baffle and confuse, that challenge the status quo and our spirits. Now is the time to strengthen ties with colleagues beyond our borders and to share with local folks what we learn through travel and conferences. Our connections made with librarians and citizens beyond U.S. boundaries and the exchange of information prompted by friendships created through travel and exchanges will help our constituencies at home better understand the larger world we inhabit.

As I email committee members who are hard at work planning the 2002 IRRT Reception and Program, I cannot help wondering if we will see the numbers of international and American librarians who have gathered to celebrate during past ALAs. I can assure you that plans are proceeding for a wonderful program focusing on opportunities for travel and working assignments abroad. A venue has been secured in Atlanta for our popular reception and details are being settled to assure a good time

for all. Committee work proceeds and securing new members, especially members from abroad, takes on a new urgency.

Librarians, through their selection, display, and distribution of materials, influence opinions and stretch minds. In uncertain times, the need for information is even more urgent than under normal circumstances. Librarians fill a need for solid information, contrasting opinions, and diversion. We have a calling to provide what people request and to influence their perceptions through the provision of varied points of view. I am proud of the work many librarians have done abroad and I encourage IRRT members to seek international experiences and to share those experiences with library users at home.

I invite you to join us in New Orleans for Midwinter and to make your plans for Atlanta. At every opportunity invite colleagues to join IRRT. We need to grow our membership of world-savvy people. Our communities, citizens, and students need our perspectives. They need informed sources of information. Won't you invite one librarian to join IRRT?

IRRT and IRC Meetings at the 2002 ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans (January 18 – 23, 2002)

International Relations Committee

Friday, January 18, 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 348
 Tuesday, January 22, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 348

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting

Saturday, January 19, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 275-277

IRC/Bogle Pratt Award Subcommittee (Closed)

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 336

IRRT Executive Committee

Sunday, January 20, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 348

IRC/Humphry/OCLC Forest Press Award Subcommittee (Closed)

Saturday, January 19, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 337

International Papers Subcommittee

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
 Morial Convention Center, Room 351

International Poster Session Subcommittee

Saturday, January 19, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Royal Sonesta, Iberville Room

IFLA 2002 Conference Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Inter-Continental Hotel
 Vieux Carre B Room

Helping A Library in Antigua, Guatemala

By Alvin Hutchinson

Late last year I traveled to Antigua, Guatemala to volunteer at a small school library. During my three-week visit, the library staff and I created procedures for and began converting the card catalog to an online database. The project involved not only laying out the steps for systematically searching and entering records, but training the staff in some standard library practices which they may have been unfamiliar with. For myself, I was able to learn Spanish in one of the many immersion programs in this beautiful town and to learn more about libraries in a developing country.

I had read about the volunteer opportunity last summer in *International Leads* and after corresponding with the project sponsors by e-mail, I made plans to go. Common Hope (formerly The Godchild Project) has its headquarters in Minnesota and operates a variety of programs in Guatemala, providing services in education, health, counseling and vocational training among other areas. One of their community centers, Familias de Esperanza, has a small library of primarily juvenile literature available for the students at the school. The collection of 1000-2000 volumes is almost entirely in Spanish, however there are some professional texts on social work and educational methods that were for the departmental staff.

Before embarking, I picked up several used Spanish language books at my local public library sale to bring as donations. They turned out to be welcome additions, but as with many libraries in developing countries, they would rather have the donations in the form of money. It is best for local libraries to purchase from local publishers not only to support publishing businesses, but also because there are linguistic and

cultural differences that make Spanish-language materials brought from the U.S. less useful than those published locally or selected by the local library staff and teachers.

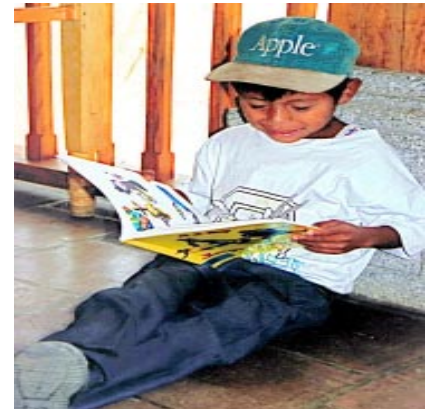
When I started my work there, the library staff told me they wanted to develop an online library catalog for the collection. Previously, a volunteer had created a bibliographic database for the library but records had been entered inconsistently and it had not been updated or maintained for some time. The only current catalog the library did have was a card system that included only minimal information. They used the Dewey Decimal classification system for shelving, but their card catalog records had no subject terms and



A small school library in Antigua.
(Photo: Alvin Hutchinson, 2000)

therefore provided no access. Library staff located all books by author from the card file or by their acute memory.

The previously-created library database used Microsoft Access and its pre-designed "books" template. It had hundreds of records already entered. Therefore, we decided that using this could save us a lot of work. We modified its structure slightly, substituting Spanish terms (Autor, Titulo, Tema, etc.) where necessary, and



The Antigua child enjoys reading one of the donated Spanish book.

(Photo: Alvin Hutchinson, 2000)

adding a field for the Dewey classification number. For works of fiction, they had been using the first three letters of the author's last name and that is what we used in the classification field for those records. My primary purpose then, was to devise a workflow for verifying the information in the existing Access catalog and converting the card file (and any uncataloged items) to this database. I wrote procedures in English, and used the web-site Translator.go.com to convert it roughly to Spanish. With a bit of help from my Spanish instructor, I cleaned up the translation and printed out copies for the library staff to review, clarifying any steps or procedures that were vague.

We spent the final week implementing and testing the procedures. An intern from a nearby high school pulled cards from the catalog, searched them, and if they were already in the database, verified information. If the record was not in the database, he skipped it and moved on. After all catalog cards were searched and verified, the team will move to enter uncataloged items in the database. They will print out manageable portions of the database, sorted by shelf

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From ALA's Internaitonal Desk by Michael Dowling

Well it's taken some time but the new Global Reach international participation website is live. The website will allow us to capture the variety of international activities that libraries and librarians are participating in. To access the site and create your own profile please visit <http://www.ala.org/work/international>, and click on the Global Reach link.

I want to thank all of those who participated in sending information to the test database and for their comments and suggestion to improve it. Trying to create a functional form that captures accurately all international activities has not been easy. We will continue to improve the site and the form as we analyze the input into the database.

We hope that this database will be a useful tool for those looking for information on projects and programs in specific regions and countries, identify resource people, and showcasing the amount of international activity that librarians are engaged in. So please take the time to fill out your profile. Thank you.

In reviewing the list of subscribers to ALAWORLD subscribers there are less than 300 on the list. I'd like to

encourage all IRRT members to sign up for the list to make it a vehicle to reach all of the members. ALA has a new registration procedure for signing up for discussion lists that takes a little time but it makes signing up and managing your participation on various lists a lot easier:

- 1) To join ALAWORLD go to <http://lp-web.ala.org:8000/>
- 2) Go down to options and click on "register for a full account"
- 3) Fill out the registration form and respond to the email message you receive
- 4) Go back to <http://lp-web.ala.org:8000/> and under options click "Use of Registered User Area"
- 5) Move down the list of discussion lists and click on ALAWORLD
- 6) Click on "subscribe" and you are signed up

The IRO is assisting the Sister Libraries Committee in maintaining the Sister Libraries site. If you have a sister library relationship set up please contact Bob Conrad, our new intern from Dominican University, at bconrad@ala.org. We really want to highlight exciting partnerships that have taken place.

News and Announcements

Opportunity to Join ALA Delegation to INFO 2002 in Cuba: ALA President John Berry will be leading a delegation of ALA members to the International Conference of Information "Info2002- Information, Knowledge and Society: Challenges of the New Era" which will be held April, 22-26, 2002 in Havana, Cuba. The Conference is being sponsored by Institute of Scientific and Technological Information (IDICT) and the Sociedad Cubana de Ciencias de la Información (SOCICT). Individuals are invited to participate in the delegation at their own expense. For more information on INFO2002 and how to participate in the ALA delegation please visit <http://www.ala.org/work/international/cuba>

"Statistics in practice: Measuring & Managing" will be held in Burleigh Court, Loughborough, Leicestershire, United Kingdom on August 13-15, 2002. This is an official IFLA satellite preconference sponsored by the IFLA Section on Statistics. The emphasis of papers will be on the practical applications of statistics to library management in all sectors, and delegates may register poster presentations on this topic. If you would like to register your interest, without obligation, please send contact details to: LISU, Loughborough University, Loughborough,

LE11 3TU, UK, phone: +44 (0) 1509 223071, fax: +44 (0) 1509 223072, email: lisu@lboro.ac.uk, and you will be sent further details and a registration form when these become available.

"Libraries: Global Reach-Local Touch" is available again. This book was edited by Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Barbara Ford, and Kate Lippincott. The book was originally published by ALA in 1998. The copies of the reprinted edition are through an initiative of Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS). The book contains 28 articles on various aspects of librarianship in a number of countries and is at \$40 per copy. To obtain a copy, please send a check to GSLIS, Dominican University, 7900 W. Division Street, River Forest, IL 60305.

The Ninth International ILIAC Conference, "Crimea 2002" will be held in Sudak, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine, on June 8 - 16, 2002, with the theme of "Electronic Resources and the Social Role of Libraries in the Future." The conference will be held at the popular Crimea resorts. For more information, the call for papers, or to register, visit the conference homepage at <http://www.iliac.org/crimea2002/index.html>, or to contact the North American regional managers at +7(095)929-1340 or crimea.america@gpntb.ru

Second International Indigenous Librarians' Forum *By Lorie Roy*

The Second International Indigenous Librarians' Forum: Continuing to Affirm the Knowledge and Values of Indigenous Peoples in the Age of Information, was held September 4-9, 2001 in Jokkmok, Sweden in Norrbotten County, just north of the Arctic Circle.

The second forum included presentations, cultural experiences, and four gatherings of a newly formed Indigenous Librarians Council. Anna-Lena Wiklund Rippert of the Ajtte Museum and Peter Sarri, Sami Library Counsellor, were the forum organizers. Thirty-five indigenous librarians represented indigenous library services in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. The formal conference presentations investigated three themes: issues that affect indigenous culture, such as

digital equity and the development of guidelines and protocols for indigenous library services; the use of technology in communicating, documenting, and preserving indigenous culture, and the specific library services in Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Canada, Norway, and the United States.

On the last day of the Forum, the Indigenous Librarians Council presented several statements that summarize current action priorities. These are as follows:

We as indigenous librarians:

-- recognize the importance of language to cultural identity and will advocate for self determination and control of indigenous knowledge while inspiring progress within our professions.

-- propose that international guidelines and protocols on the use of and access to indigenous intellectual property be developed to guide libraries in their environments, services, program(s), collections, and staffing.

-- seek to form alliances with other international indigenous bodies committed to nurturing indigenous youth.

-- affirm our commitment to utilize our collective skills, values, and expertise in both cultural and professional spheres to strengthen indigenous youth.

-- state that the use of intellectual and cultural property in any medium, especially in light of the global instantaneous impact of the electronic environment, without the approval of all appropriate indigenous authorities, is unacceptable.

Following the Forum, some delegates participated in the 2001 Barents Libraries Conference, also held in Jokkmokk and attended by seventy-five information professionals, and the Goteborg International Book Fair (Bok & Bibliotek)

Welcome New IRRT Members!

Shamima Amin
Robert Bibbee
Daniel Blewett
Suzanne Castroman
Gary Flanagan
Jill Gage
Elizabeth Grefe
Wallace Koehler
Thomas Leimkuehler
Harriet Lightman
Gay Loesch
Particia Luthin
Catherine Marsicek
Mary McCarthy
Richard Murray
Alvin Negron-Paez
David Oldenkamp
Lyn Petrie
Doug Phelps
Tammy Rabideau
Red River Community-
College Library
Donald E. Riggs
Bryon Sitler
Barbara von Wahlde
Hong Wang
Zheng Wang

in southern Sweden. A Third International Indigenous Librarians Forum will likely take place in North America in 2003.

Helping a Library

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location, and check the list against the books on the shelf. Books not on these printouts will need to be pulled and the information entered into the database.

Time and other factors did not permit me to train the person entering and verifying data on any but the most basic bibliographic methods essential for any library catalog. A high school student did most of the work and fortunately, he was very bright and a fast learner. What he lacked in background, he made up for in eagerness to learn. He explored Microsoft Access enough to see that in a small catalog such as this one, there are several ways to find any book.

In addition to building the foundation for a usable online catalog and meeting some wonderful people, the trip afforded me an opportunity to learn Spanish. Antigua is a center for Spanish language tourists. It is a small town, not the crowded, dangerous metropolis that so many international capitals have become, yet it is just 30 minutes away from an international airport. Spanish language schools are abundant and therefore quite competitive in price. Generally one week of study (4-8 hours per day) costs between \$100-\$150 and homestay is available (and suggested) for \$50 or so above that. Anyone interested in traveling to Antigua either to volunteer at Familias de Esperanza or to study at PROBIGUA, can contact me at hutchinsona@sil.si.edu Also see: <http://probigua.conexion.com> (*Alvin Hutchinson is a librarian at Smithsonian Institution Libraries*)

Report from the International Relations Committee

By Nancy John, Chair

The ALA International Relations Committee (IRC) has been quite productive since its June 2001 meetings. We are now getting organized for the January 2002 meetings so I will report on activities of the past three months and inform you of coming attractions at midwinter.

The IRC spent time preparing for IRC activities at the IFLA conference and then on the follow-up. The very successful U.S.- China pre-conference to the IFLA conference will be reported in the next issue. It resulted from a five-year planning process (since the first conference in 1996) under the aegis of the IRC East Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee. Activities during the IFLA meeting included staffing the ALA booth in the exhibits area, preparing the ALA gift of the Campaign for America's Libraries (@ your library) to IFLA to create the Campaign for the World's Libraries, and ongoing activities to further cooperation between ALA and ASCUBI (the Cuban Library Association). IRC members met with colleagues from around the world at the ALA Booth to explore ways that ALA could collaborate with associations in other countries. Following up on those contacts will be part of the IRC's Midwinter agenda. ALA IRC members fielded questions about the Campaign for America's Libraries and urged international colleagues to join the worldwide campaign. Finally, the highlight was the signing of the Protocol to Cooperate by ALA President John W. Berry and ASCUBI President Marta Terry Gonzalez. The follow-up action plan is on the agenda of the IRC Subcommittee on Latin American and the Caribbean. The ALA submitted a resolution to the IFLA Council, jointly with Eliades Acosta, Director of the Jose Martí National Library. Part of the ALA resolution was folded into a second resolution submitted by Alex Byrne (Australia) and subsequently passed by the IFLA Council. The 2001 materials about ALA and Cuban libraries including the Protocol, the IFLA resolution, and the report of the ALA visit in June 2001 are available at <http://www.ala.org/work/international/cuba.html>. In a related activity, the IRC and IRRRT helped IRC member Jeanne Drewes to fill out a shipment of books and library conservation supplies (40 boxes) that is scheduled to arrive in Cuba on October 26, 2001. She will go to Cuba in December and hopes to distribute the shipment then. (Watch for a report in a future IL.) Another committee activity was the distribution to the U.S. Caucus at the IFLA meeting of an IRC tip sheet entitled "How to be a better host/ess at IFLA 2001."

The ALA IRC received the happy news that ALA's nominees for the IFLA Copyright and other Legal Matters

Committee (CLM) and the IFLA Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Committee have been approved. Serving two-year terms (2001-2003) are Robert Oakley (Georgetown University) on CLM and Marianna Tax Choldin (University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign) on FAIFE. James Neal (Columbia University) will serve as a special advisor to the CLM committee. The IRC endorsed the name of Sarah Ann Long (North Suburban Library System, Illinois) to replace Betty Turock as the ALA representative on the Board of Trustees of the American Library in Paris. The ALA Executive Board at its October 2001 meeting approved the nomination.

The IRC has asked the Committee on Legislation to look at whether now is the time to urge the U.S. Congress again toward rejoining UNESCO. The ALA Public Awareness Advisory Committee is working with the IRC to advance the Campaign for the World's Libraries. Important issues being addressed include the distribution and sales of ALA graphics and publications outside North America. A number of IRC members will attend the Guadalajara Book Fair where discussions on future cooperation between ALA and AMBAC (the Mexican Library Association) will take place. At Midwinter, the IRC will begin its regular process of identifying individuals to be nominated by ALA for IFLA Section standing committees, 2003-2005. More information is available at <http://www.ala.org/work/international/iflarep.html>. Michael Dowling and I will attend the Fall Division Meeting to discuss ALA's role in the international arena. At Midwinter the IRC's IFLA Subcommittee in collaboration with the ALA Committee on Legislation will be looking at the IFLA Position on the World Trade Organization to see if there is a role for ALA. Also, the new IRC Planning Task Force will be presenting an action plans for the IRC, based upon the ALA International Relations Planning Document 2000-2000 at <http://www.ala.org/work/international/agenda2000-2005.html>

Finally there are two special reports. The IRC was gratified and humbled by the enormous outpouring of support and kind wishes it received on behalf of ALA from our international colleagues in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001. These notes and emails – a few of which appeared in the October issue of *American Libraries* – meant a great deal. And last but not least, please join the whole ALA international community in welcoming our newest member, Kevin Kai Dowling, born August 31, 2001!

IFLA 2001 Conference

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Bloss, Endeavor), Library Buildings and Equipment (Bart Clark, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana), Statistics (Wanda Dole, Washburn University).

In order to serve on the IFLA committees, it takes years of work with the organization. I have served as the ALA representative to the IFLA Section on Statistics since 1995. My representation is sponsored by the ALCTS Library Materials Price Index Committee (LMPI) and the L A M A Section on Measurement, Assessment and Evaluation. After that, I served as interim chair of the Statistics Section in 1998, was elected chair for 1999-2001, and re-elected chair for 2001-2003. As chair of the Statistics Section, I chair the Section's two open meetings and organize an open



Conference attendees review materials they received between the meetings.

(Photo: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)

program and other events at each annual conference. From 1998-2001, I also served as Information Coordinator and posted information on the Section lists and on the Statistics page at IFLANET (www.ifla.org).

In 1999, I was elected to a two-year term (1999-2001) as chair of the

Coordinating Board of Division VI (Management and Technology), the division to which Statistics reports. In 2001, I was elected to a second term as chair of Division VI. The Coordinating Board (CB) is composed of the elected officers (Chair and Secretary/Treasurer) of the Sections and Roundtables. The CB meets twice at each IFLA conference to discuss programs and projects. As the chair of the Division, I attend meetings at IFLA Headquarters in the Hague twice a year (December and March) and at IFLA conferences. We review the financial reports and project proposals of all IFLA Sections and Roundtables and allocate funding.

If you are interested in serving on the IFLA committees, please contact the officials of the ALA Divisions in which you are a member. (*Wanda Dole is current IFLA's Statistics Section Chair*)

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