

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle  
January 25 – 29, 2013

**Topic:** IFLA Conference Report

**Background:** Leslie Farmer is YALSA's current representative to the Literacy and Reading Section of the International Federation of Library Associations. She has provided a report on the latest conference, which was in August 2012 in Helsinki, Finland.

**Action Required:** Information

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At the 2012 World Library and Information Congress of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) four thousand librarians swooped down on Helsinki in to share success stories and concerns across the field. The August skies were blue-sky, and the food reflected Finland's natural resources (salmon, reindeer, lingonberries, an dark bread). As YALSA's representative to the Literacy and Reading Section, I came to the conference with the perspective of youth services.

The Literacy and Reading Section helped host a successful summit last fall on intergenerational programs for literacy, which resulted in the Tunis(ian) Declaration on Libraries, Reading, and Intergenerational Dialogue (<http://www.ifla.org/files/literacy-and-reading/publications/tunis-declaration-en.pdf>). The summit's presentations were developed into an English-Frend book titled *Intergenerational Solidarity in Libraries*, which was published in July (<http://www.ifla.org/en/news/new-publication-intergenerational-solidarity-in-libraries> ). The section will continue with this theme for the next couple of years, including the IFLA 2013 conference program in Singapore and a possible series of seminars on the topic in needy countries. I shared YALSA's recent publications with the standing committee, who werer very impressed with YALSA's efforts.

The section's conference program was *Libraries for literacy: linking generations, empowering communities* — Literacy and Reading.

- Keynote speaker Barbro Wigell-Ryynänen (Library Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Helsinki, Finland) provided statistics and insights into Finland's culture of reading.
- Carolynn Rankin (Leeds Metropolitan University, United Kingdom) detailed the country's National Year of Reading, which focused on a social media campaign.
- Wallace Koehler (Valdosta State University, Georgia, USA) discussed curriculum for teaching library students about community building for literacy.
- Ivanka Stricevic (Croatia) shared experiences from the Tunis summit on intergenerational literacy program, and emphasized the cultural impact of these efforts.

Other aspects of the conference also informed youth services. For instance, the School Libraries and Resource Centers Section is developing a module on building strong school library associations, which will offer online and F2F training. Their conference program, cosponsored with the public libraries section, focused on public-school library collaboration: services to rural areas, creating personal development plans, and teacher training. The two sections also had an off-site program held at a suburban public library. The library's teen room included two game areas as well as multimedia resources, relevant events, and awesome YA librarians with flare-bedecked denim vests. Speakers talked about "live books" (reincubating books in nature), sister libraries, and engaging summer reading clubs.

Several sessions discussed teen-related issues: social media and other emerging technologies, the Google generation, accessibility issues, health information, digitized resources, elearning and information literacy, copyright, multiculturalism, knowledge management, and transforming physical space. Many of these speakers have their papers posted at <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78/programme-and-proceedings-full-printable>

IFLA provides a unique venue for discussing and addressing teen issues on an international level, taking into consideration socio-cultural implications. If you are interested in participating in such discussion, contact me at [Lesley.Farmer@csulb.edu](mailto:Lesley.Farmer@csulb.edu)