



## **IFLA/AFRICA SECTION**

### ***Annual Report September 2003 – September 2004***

#### **1. Mission**

To promote and support the advancement of Library and Information Profession and Services in Africa in line with the objectives and priorities of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

#### **2. Specific Objectives/Priorities**

In 2003 – 2004 the Section focused on the following areas in line with the Strategic Plan of 2004-2005

- Strengthening of Library Associations
- Human Resource Development
- Information Services to the community
- Closing the digital divide
- Preservation of Library and Archival material in Africa
- Promotion of IFLA activities in the region

#### **3. Membership/Officers**

In the period 2003 – 2004, Africa Section was managed by 20 members

Elections for the new office bearers for 2003 – 2005 are as follows:

Chair	-	Jacinta Were
Secretary	-	Sarah Kagoda-Batuwa (East African Corporation, Arusha)
Treasurer	-	Bernard Dione (Universite Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar- Senegala)
Information Officer/Manager of Regional Office	-	Henry Sene

## **4. Meetings/Events**

### *4.1 SC Annual Meeting*

The SC Annual Meeting was held in Gaborone, Botswana in February 2004. IFLA HQ was represented by Sjoerd Koopman while Birgitta Sandell represented ALP. The meeting evaluated progress in implementation of the strategic plan as well as ALP supported projects. Strategies for professional developments on the continent were discussed at length. The meeting also deliberated on activities for Buenos Aires conference.

### *4.2 SC Meetings at Buenos Aires*

The Section held 2 SC Meetings during the Buenos Aires conference. One meeting was open to observers while one was a closed meeting. The open meeting attracted productive contributions from the floor

### *4.3 Open Forum*

The Section organized an Open Forum during the Buenos Aires conference. The Theme of the forum was “*Libraries and Literacy: Information, Reading, Oral Tradition*”. Four very high quality papers were presented at the forum. One of them: “*Reaching out to the less advantaged: Reading tents in Kenya*” by Margaret Makenzi (Kenya)

### *4.4 Poster Session*

The Section organized a Poster Session during the Buenos Aires conference as part of Division-8 conference activity. The Theme focused on Information literacy and regional professional activities. It was a successful session.

### *4.5 Plans for OSLO Conference*

Africa Section plans to host/participate in the following activities:

- Joint Programme with other Division VIII Sections
- Section Meeting (2)
- Poster Session. The focus will be on professional activities in the region
- Open Forum: Theme – *Change in Information Needs: Challenging Roles for Libraries and Information Centres in Africa*
- Third World Caucus

## **5. Projects/Publications**

### **5.1. Completed**

- A Workshop on “Management of Digital and Virtual Libraries” was held in Botswana in February 2004. It was a very successful Workshop
- A workshop on “*Networking of library and information educators in the Eastern Central and Southern Africa Region*” was held 3-4 July 2004 in Uganda in connection with the SCECSAL conference. The Workshop brought together educators from the region to discuss strategies of collaboration. It was a very successful Workshop.

- The Directory on Library Associations was distributed to Library Associations. There is however a cry for updating the publication to accommodate more countries. Plans are underway for the update.
- The Africa IFLA Regional Office has continued to produce Newsletters frequently

## **5.2. Planned**

- Meeting with professionals in North Africa, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2005. The meeting will focus on Networking and the World Summit on the Information Society – Phase 11
- Regional Workshop on IPR and Copyright Laws for indigenous information (time to be decided on)
- Workshop on Preservation of Pictorial heritage : Photographs in African Collections (time to be decided on)
- Workshop to review curriculum in library schools in Africa to accommodate developments in Information and Communication Technologies (time to be decided on)

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 **Africa Regional Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s25/index.htm>