

IFLA Section of Science and Technology Libraries Newsletter

May 2004

Greetings from the Chair

We are off to another hemisphere for IFLA 2004! The first time this conference will convene in South America in what many describe as one of the most interesting cities on the continent suggests great opportunities for everyone who will attend, including language (it has been over a decade since Spanish was the primary language of the conference - Barcelona 1993); change in seasons as IFLA tends to be held in summer climates rather than a mild winter; many new participants and lots to explore. I look forward to welcoming you all to our sessions and meeting many new science librarians who for the first time will participate in this international conference. We have a new emphasis in subject matter this year having covered other themes and disciplines in the past few years and in 2004 will focus on Physics and the skill sets needed to be a successful librarian working in that field today. Obviously, there will be many parallels to other subject specialties and we look forward to a wonderful conference.

What we have planned includes

- STS Open Session on Tuesday, August 24 at 16:00-18:00 (simultaneous translation) - more fully described later in the newsletter

And we can also promise:

- Site visit to the Science and Engineering Library at the Universidad de Buenos Aires on Thursday, August 26 from 9:00-12:00 (see <http://www.bl.fcen.uba.ar/index.html>) for our section
- Industry Updates with leaders in the STM publishing fields
- Several keynote speakers noted on the IFLA program at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm>
- Exciting cultural programs and events
- A full tradeshow
- Chance to explore the beautiful city of Buenos Aires

Other "work" we will engage in at the conference is a progress report on and plans for our Research Project, and begin serious planning for IFLA 2005 in Oslo. We will also have updates from our liaison associations and consider how we can continue to work closely with these partners in science librarianship.

I want to share with our readers that I recently had the opportunity to visit a new science museum in Washington, DC. The Marion Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences just opened in April 2004 and features state-of-the-art exhibitions targeted to students and adults in the general public, bringing to life the numerous studies conducted by the National Academies. The mission of the Museum is to make these studies more accessible to the public and to increase public understanding of the nature and value of science. Currently, the debut or inaugural exhibits explore the following topics:

- Wonders of Science - will be part of the permanent exhibit
- Global Warming Facts & Our Future
- Putting DNA to Work

Named in memory of Marian Koshland, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and professor of Biology at the University of California, Berkeley and gifted by an endowment from her husband, former editor of *Science* and also a member of the National Academy of Sciences, it will add to the rich mix of museums in Washington. I invite you to visit virtually at <http://www.kolshland-science-museum.org> and include it on your next trip to Washington.

I hope everyone is studying their tango and looking forward to a memorable trip to Argentina.

Julia Gelfand

Chair and Treasurer

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**JOIN THE SCI-TECH OPEN SESSION AT
WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS:
70th IFLA General Conference and Council
August 22nd - 27th 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

At IFLA 2004 Buenos Aires the Science and Technology Libraries Section will organize an open session “**Promoting scientific literacy and professional development for science librarians**”. The session will be held in Spanish with simultaneous translation. We will be hearing views from both the scientists as well as librarians in this timely and important issue. Ray Schwartz from the New Jersey Institute of Technology will serve as Moderator.

Reflections of Change in the Work of a Physicist

MARIANA WEISSMANN is an acknowledged Senior Researcher at the Argentine National Research Council in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In her presentation she will share how her life as a researcher, scientist and author has changed over the course of her career. Dra. Weissmann was awarded the L’ORÉAL-UNESCO “FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE” prize in 2003 for her work in material sciences. Her research interest lies in the properties of solids.

Information seeking behavior of physicists

NANCY GOMEZ is the director of the exact and natural sciences library of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. In her presentation she will explore the work analyses and information seeking behavior of students who are in the process of getting a PhD in Physics or who have recently done so. The analysis was made utilizing the approach which is centered on the user. An attempt is made to explain situations in the seeking and use of information in terms of the sources, the criteria used to determine its relevance, organizational strategies as well as information presentation strategies. The study also looks at the physicists’ feelings during the information seeking process and the way the idea of information evolves in their minds throughout their PhD.

Professional librarianship 2004: development, transitions and partnerships

CAMILA ALIRE is Dean of Library Services at the University of New Mexico. Professor Camila Alire will give us a view of the library from an administrator's vantage point. Dr. Alire has an extensive record of experience as the head of various academic libraries and has published widely. She is well versed in all aspects of library & information management and technology and has served in leadership roles with the American Library Association ALA and has just won election as President-elect of the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Our **WORKSHOP** will be an off-site **Study Tour** to visit the University of Buenos Aires Science & Engineering Library on Thursday morning, August 26 at 9 - noon. Travel will be via public transportation as a group from the Convention Center.

REGISTRATION - An eMail notice will be sent to all section members and reservations will be needed. Jean Poland (jp126@cornell.edu) has kindly agreed to receive reservations by August 1. More information will be forthcoming about this site visit.

Plan ahead and mark your calendars with the following IFLA 2004 Sci-Tech events:

- *Sci-Tech Standing Committee I meeting Sunday 22 August at 08.30-11.20*
- *Open session on Tuesday 24 August at 16:00-18:00*
- *Workshop Study Tour on Thursday 26 August at 09-12 (please remember to preregister with Jean Poland)*
- *Sci-Tech Standing Committee II meeting Saturday 28 August at 11.30-14.20*

The Standing Committee Meetings are the business meetings of the Standing Committees of IFLA Sections and are open to visitors & observers by permission of the chairs. They are a good way of getting to know the work of a Section and may lead to greater involvement.

NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Bibliothèque Nationale de France active in promoting science

Reported by Philippe Raccah

Digitization

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France, BnF, the national library of France has been active in making science visible by digitizing old collections and enhancing access to these collections. The server Gallica of the national library BnF is dedicated to digitized materials <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

In mathematics the co-operation between the French network of libraries is showing impressive results as books and periodicals are being digitized (please see Pierre Bérard's paper from SciTech section Open session at IFLA Glasgow 2002 <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/095-112e.pdf>). Within the framework of this co-operation the BnF server Gallica is linked with NUMDAM, the Digitization of Ancient Mathematics Documents program and Cellule

MathDoc, the joint institute on scientific information and communication of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique–CNRS and Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble.

Nouvel atlas de Marine. By Brouckner, Isaac (1686-1762).
Courtesy of the BnF Gallica.

Recently, BnF was responsible for the digitization of the famous card catalogue regarding mathematics, the Répertoire bibliographique des sciences mathématiques (RBSM). The catalogue, which contains 20 000 references to international works dating from 1894 to 1912 can now be accessed online from the website of Cellule MathDoc <http://math-doc.ujf-grenoble.fr/RBSM/>. Other partners in this effort included the Archives H. Poincaré (CNRS/University of Nancy 2) who took part in the optical character recognition process.

The LINUM (Livres NUMérisés de Mathématique) online catalogue of digitized books

in mathematics brings together the four major servers of digitized books in the field of mathematics. The LINUM brings together books from University of Cornell (USA), University of Michigan (USA), State and University Library Göttingen (Germany), and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Furthermore, the service links the catalogues of digital scientific papers from the German historical Königlich Preußischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Polish Biblioteka Wirtualna Matematyki, and the National Library of Portugal. <http://math-doc.ujf-grenoble.fr/LiNuM/>

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France has also digitized periodicals in co-operation with special and university libraries. Together with the Museum national d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris the following three periodicals have recently been digitized:

- Bulletin de la Société Les naturalistes parisiens (n°1 1904 – n°15 1933),
- Bulletin de la Société botanique de France (t.1 1854 – t.46 1899), and
- Bulletin de la Société philomatique de Paris (n°1 1791 – n°96 an 13, t.4 1814 – t. 10 1833).

The growing periodical collections in science will be soon accessible via Gallica: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>.

BnF Exhibitions

At the moment BnF is preparing a major exhibition on the subject of the sea, entitled *La mer, terreur et fascination* together with a pool of documentation and research centers on oceanology from Brest (on west coast of France). Previous exhibitions in this series of exhibitions from the BnF departments of science and technology and maps have focused on the sky (*Figure du ciel*) and the earth (*Couleurs de la terre*). *La mer, terreur et fascination* will present the sea element through a scientific, artistic and imaginary approach. Exhibition materials include manuscripts, illuminations, engravings, maps, literary and scientific texts, paintings, musical works, audiovisual workstations and films. The time span ranges from the 13th century to present-day materials. The exhibition will open at the BnF in October 2004 and it is scheduled to continue until January 2005. Another chance to see this great exhibition will be in Brest from May to July 2005.

BnF Seminars

The BnF conferences and seminars are an important part of the library activities. In December 2003, Professor Jean-Pierre Changeux, (Collège de France and Institut Pasteur) who is a researcher in neurobiology held a very successful series of three seminars at BnF on the subject of cerebral mechanisms involved in knowledge acquisition. The possibilities of research in neurosciences regarding issues such as moral judgment and moral norms were discussed. The seminars also investigated how neurobiology can explain the sense of beauty and creation in art.

Other highlights of IFLA 2004 in Buenos Aires

Olga Lavrik, member of the Science and Technology Libraries Standing Committee is putting into practice IFLA President Kay Raseroka's plea made in Glasgow 2002 regarding interaction between sections and especially with those representing the developing countries of IFLA VIII Division of Regional Activities. In Buenos Aires Olga Lavrik will give a presentation in the Asia and Oceania section Open Session "**Information Literacy for a knowledge society in Asia and Oceania**".

In her presentation on Wednesday, Aug. 25th Olga, who comes from Novosibirsk, will explore information literacy issues from a Siberian perspective.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EDCL 2004, the 8th European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries. September 12-17, 2004 in Bath, United Kingdom. <http://www.ecdl2004.org/>

EDUCAUSE 2003 Annual Conference. "IT From a Higher Vantage Point", October 19-22, 2004 in Denver, Colorado, USA. <http://www.educause.edu/conference/annual/2004/>

EUSIDIC Annual Conference 2004. "The Content Battle: the battle between content owners and content platform providers", October 17-19, 2004 in Helsinki, Finland. <http://www.eusidic.org/>

FOIS-2004 International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems. November 4-6, 2004 in Turin (Torino) Italy <http://www.fois.org>

GL 6, International Conference on Grey Literature. "Work on grey in Progress" December 6-7, 2004 in New York, N.Y. USA <http://www.textrelease.com/pages/3/>

LIBER 2004, the 33rd LIBER Annual General Conference. "Integrating Europe! New Partnership across Old Borders" 29 June - 2 July 2004, Saint - Petersburg, Russia. <http://www.nlr.ru:8101/tus/290604/index.html>

Online Information 2004 London, United Kingdom. November 30 - December 2 2004. <http://www.online-information.co.uk>

IFLANET NEWS

Forum of the IFLA Science and Technology Libraries Section

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The Sci-Tech list forum continues to grow and as of May 31st 2004 there were 103 members on the list from all over the world. All interested in the work of the Sci-Tech Section are welcomed to join. Please see <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/stl-sc> for instructions. If you change your e-mail address, please update that with the listserv as well.

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