



Information Technology Section

Annual report 2003-2004

Scope Statement

The Information Technology Section (ITS) serves to promote and advance the application of information technologies (IT) to library and information services in all societies, through activities related to standards, education and training, research, and the marketplace.

As defined in the 2004-2005 Strategic Plan, the goals of the IT Section are:

- To investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge about new technologies that have significant potential for library services, but which have not been widely adopted.
- To investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge about applicable IT for access to information resources, with special attention to needs regarding regions where telecommunication networks are of low capacity, or are not easily affordable.
- To identify and promote standards, guidelines and best practices for the management of information and IT resources and to improve efficiency and service level of library operations. This includes issues such as metadata and data structures, data manipulation techniques and long-term availability of electronic information.
- To promote data standards and protocols that will improve interoperability between systems and facilitate data exchange between libraries and other sectors of information creation.
- To encourage and support projects within the scope of the strategic plan by maintaining close contacts with other IFLA sections and Core Activities, as well as with other international associations and organizations focused on IT.

More information about the action plan for each of these goals can be found at:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/annual/sp21-04.htm>.

Membership

The Section has 404 members (as of October 2004) from 82 countries: 299 institutions, 63 national associations, 31 personal affiliates, 8 international associations, 2 bodies with consultative status, 1 corporate partner.

The ITS has maintained its mailing list (ifla-it@infoserv.inist.fr). As of October 2004 it was subscribed by 262 persons and had an average of 60-80 messages per annum.

The Standing Committee consists of 21 members, from 15 countries:

2001-2005

Sabine Barral, *Agence Bib. de L'Enseignement Supérieur*, France
Claude Bonnelly, *Bibliothèque Université Laval*, Canada
Maria Inês Cordeiro, *Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation*, Portugal
Gill Hamilton, *National Library of Scotland*, United Kingdom
Yuri Hohlov, *Institute of the Information Society*, Russian Federation
Mats Lindquist, *Goteborgs UB, Economics Library*, Sweden
Catherine Lupovici, *Bibliothèque nationale de France*, France
Solomon Mutai, *Moi University Library*, Kenya
Per Mogens Petersen, *Danish Bibliographic Center*, Denmark
Diann Rusch-Feja, *International University Bremen*, Germany
Marinus Swanepol, *University of Lethbridge*, Canada
Mirna Willer, *National and University Library*, Croatia

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Reinhard Altenhöner, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek*, Germany
Mercedes Chacon Fuertes, *Biblioteca Nacional*, Spain
Nazha Hachad, *Ecole des Sciences de l'Information*, Rabat, Morocco
Hilde Hoegaas, *National Library of Norway*, Norway
Mary E. Jackson, *Association of Research Libraries*, USA
Wei Liu, *Digital Library Institute of Shanghai*, China
Sally McCallum, *Library of Congress*, USA
J.L. de Vries, *Universiteitsbibliotheek EUR*, Netherlands
Lawrence Woods, *University of Iowa Libraries*, USA

Officers

Chair/Treasurer:

Ms Maria Inês Cordeiro
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Lawrence Woods

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Meetings

As usual, the Standing Committee met twice at each of the IFLA conferences, with an average of 15 SC members present. These meetings registered an average of 10 guests from several countries.

At the first SC meeting of 2003 elections took place for the ITS officers: new Chair/Treasurer and Secretary elected were Maria Inês Cordeiro (Portugal) and Larry Woods (United States) respectively. Gill Hamilton (UK) was renewed as Information officer.

The Standing Committee meetings discussed the Section's activities: programmes for present and future conferences, status of past projects and ideas for future work and revision of the ITS strategic plan. Groups were established accordingly in order to carry out the necessary tasks.

Minutes of the Standing Committee are available at:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s20/index.htm>.

In October 2004, the Standing Committee carried out a Review of the ITS, a self-evaluation of the Section's activities, delivered to the IFLA HQ.

Projects

The projects *History of the IT Section* (chaired by Sally McCallum) and *IT training needs assessment in developing countries* (chaired by Diann Rush-Feja) were considered closed in 2004. As a spin-off of the latter a suggestion was discussed to organise a seminar on the same topic in Morocco in 2005. The possibilities for this event are being explored by Nazha Hachad and Diann Rush-Feja.

A new project was agreed in 2003, on *Resource pages on Third Generation Library Information Systems* (chaired by Larry Woods).

Publications

IFLA Journal

One paper from the ITS programmes was published in this journal:

Jones, Maggie – “Digital preservation activities in the United Kingdom: building the infrastructure”. *IFLA Journal*, vol. 29, Issue 4 (2003) pp. 350-356.

<http://www.ifla.org/V/iflaj/ij-4-2003.pdf> (paper presented at the Workshop “Digital Preservation: current research, standards and best practices”).

IT Section Newsletter

The Newsletter was published twice in 2004:

IT Section Newsletter, February 2004. In print and online.

(<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/news/feb04.pdf>).

IT Section Newsletter, July 2004, English, in print and online.

(http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/news/ITsnewsletter_July_04.pdf).

Spanish, online (http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/news/ITsnewsletter_July_04-s.pdf).

IT Section Web Site

The result of the project "History of the IT Section" was published:

McCallum, Sally - *40 Years of Technology in Libraries: A Brief History of the IFLA Section on Information Technology, 1963/64 – 2003*.

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/publications/40YearsOfSIT.pdf>

Apart from other updates, two new resource pages were published in 2004:

- **Technology Watch** (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/techwatch.htm>), intended to provide a selection of institutional, association and project studies, reports and guides issued since 2003;
- **Conference Watch** (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s21/confwatch.htm>), a calendar of conferences relevant to those interested in information technology issues in libraries.

Both resource pages will require regular update.

Other publications

In 2004, the ITS initiated the project of a publication on *Authentication and Authorization for Libraries*, as a complement to the ITS 2004 programme held at IFLA. An editorial committee was established for this. It is expected to include 8/10 papers on the topic and be ready for electronic publication in the Spring of 2005.

Conference Programmes

BERLIN 2003

In 2003 the ITS held three programmes at the IFLA Conference, reaching the highest number of papers (13) and attendees (ca 460) of the last years. The Section also sponsored a Satellite Meeting.

Open session - Wireless Technologies for Library Services - RFID in Use

Three papers are available online at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/prog03.htm>

- *RFID in Libraries - Introduction to the Issues* - Mats G. Lindquist (Sweden)
- *Experiences in Implementing RFID Solutions in a Multi-vendor Environment* - Vinod Chachra (USA)
- *Integrating RFID into Library Systems - Myths and Realities* - Alastair McArthur (France)
- *RFID@Library - A Journey That Saves S\$50m* - Chan Ping Wah (Singapore)

Workshop - Digital Preservation: Current Research, Standards and Best Practices

Co-organised with the Preservation and Conservation Section. Three papers are available online at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/prog03.htm>.

- *Challenges to Digital Preservation and Building the Digital Library* - Seamus Ross (Scotland, UK)
- *Attributes of a Trusted Digital Repository* - Meg Bellinger (USA)
- *Digital Preservation Activities in the UK - Building the Infrastructure* - Maggie Jones (UK)
- *Towards a Global Digital Format Registry* - Stephen L. Abrams (USA) and David Seaman (USA)

Workshop – The Scholar's Portal: An International Perspective

Co-organised with University Libraries and other General Research Libraries Section.

- *Overview* - Larry Woods (USA)
- *The Scholars Portal Project* - Mary E. Jackson (USA)
- *The AARLIN Project: Integrating the Research Information Infrastructure - a Case Study* - Earle Gow (Australia) and Kate Roberts (Australia)

- *Portals: What's Good, What's Missing, What's Planned - a Vendor Panel* - Sara Randall (USA), Matt Goldner (UK), and Jenny Walker (USA)
- *Portals: What's Good, What's Missing, What's Needed - A User Panel* - Karen Calhoun (USA), Kris Maloney (USA), Jiri Pavlik (Czech Republic)

BUENOS AIRES 2004

In 2004 the ITS held one programme only, that had ca 150 attendees. The papers were available in English, Spanish and French. All papers are online at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm>.

Theme: Authentication and Authorization for Cross-domain E-library Services

- *Facilitate Access to E-Resources with Eduserv Athens* - Lyn Norris (UK)
- *Shibboleth: an Open Source Solution to Resource Sharing* - Marianne Afifi (USA)
- *A Star is Born: The Science and Technology Electronic Library* - Alejandra Chavez Flores (Argentina), Nora Fasano (Argentina), Cecilia Mabragana (Argentina), Mercedes Portugal (Argentina)

Relationships with other bodies

Inside IFLA

Besides the collaboration with other IFLA sections for the organization of conference programmes, the ITS has maintained SC members collaborating with the following groups:

- WG on Guidelines for OPAC displays, chaired by L. Howarth (M.I. Cordeiro);
- Permanent UNIMARC Committee (Mirna Willer).

Outside IFLA

In 2003, the ITS promoted the Satellite Meeting – **Information Technology & DCMI**. The Satellite Meeting was held in Göttingen, 11-12 August 2003. It was jointly organised with the DCMI and the Göttingen State and University Library (SUB).

The meeting gathered an international panel and focused on various aspects of Dublin Core metadata developments, OAI, METS, metadata for long-term preservation of digital assets and metadata registries. It was attended by ca 50 participants from six countries. The complete programme and presentations are available at <http://post-ifla.sub.uni-goettingen.de/agenda/Programm.html>.

In 2004 the ITS organized, also with DCMI, a panel on Dublin Core and Libraries that took place during the **10th International Conference on Dublin Core and metadata Applications**, Shanghai, China, 11-14 October 2004 (<http://dc2004.library.sh.cn/>).

The session was chaired by Wei Liu and had the following presentations:

- *Guidance on the Structure, Content, and Application of Metadata Records for Digital Resources and Collections* - Lynne Howarth, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto,
- *New and traditional descriptive formats in the library environment*, Rebecca Guenther, Library of Congress;
- *The activities of the DC Libraries Working Group*, Robina Clayphan, chair of the DCMI Libraries WG, British Library.

Maria Inês Cordeiro

Chair, Information Technology Section

January 2005