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Science and Technology Libraries Section

Newsletter May 2011

From the STL Committee Chair: Open Access, IFLA and the STL Section

by Janet Webster

For the several years, the STL Section has focused its conference sessions on open access. The Committee believes that this is a critical concept for all science and technology libraries. Access to the information our clients need is often too expensive or too difficult to get. In Quebec, we encouraged the IFLA Headquarters to be more proactive in the discussion on copyright in the European Community – and they listened and participated. In Milan, we heard about various approaches to open access worldwide and one of presenter, Ulrich Poschl, has his paper published in the IFLA Quarterly (<http://bit.ly/18sMig>). In Gothenburg, our speakers discussed how to measure the impact of open access. Our satellite workshop was completely focused on open access and the participants issues a manifesto that we shared with the IFLA Professional Committee (<http://bit.ly/iCm716>). All along, we were trying to convince IFLA to be more assertive in the open access conversation.

In April 2011, IFLA adopted a new policy about open access that signals greater commitment (<http://bit.ly/fYu5Nx>). I encourage all of you to read it. IFLA asks all of us to promote open access nationally through our associations as well as locally within our individual institutions. If you have local stories about the value of open access to science and technology information, please send them to me. I'll share them as they are a reminder of what all of us can do to improve access to information.

The STL Section has several activities in its strategic plan (<http://www.ifla.org/en/node/5623>). Let me know if you are interested in working on any of them. We could help identifying good resources for the web site on open access, space planning, e-science and information literacy in the

Please visit our website at:
<http://www.ifla.org/en/sci-tech-libraries>

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Conference Dates

**IFLA World Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico August 13-18
2011**

- Saturday August 13, 9:15-11:45 STL Committee Meeting
- Sunday August 14, 13:45-15:45 Agricultural SIG Session - *Information systems for indigenous knowledge in agriculture*
- Monday August 15, 16:00-18:00 STL Session - *The challenges and changing roles of the Science and Technology Libraries*
- Wednesday August 17, 9:45-11:45 STL Committee Meeting

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