



focus

on International Library
and Information Work

ISSN 2058-8399 (Online)

Volume 48, Number 2, 2017

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Editorial

Many thanks to John Lake for asking me to step up to the role of Editor of *Focus*. I would like to congratulate him on all the hard work he has done over the last six years. There have been some seismic changes for *Focus* during that time, including the move from printed editions to primarily electronic content (not to mention the much-needed modernising shift from the archaic-looking Palatino Linotype font to the altogether more groovy Gill Sans!).

So now it's my turn to stand upon the shoulders of *Focus* editing giants of yesteryear! My aim is to follow their lead by continuing to provide interesting, good quality content to our highly diverse international readership.

On that note, I am really pleased to be able to include an article on the International Librarians Network (ILN) courtesy of Cate Carlyle. It has been my privilege to work as Data Officer for the ILN since 2015 and sad to see the ILN's peer mentorship coming to an end this year. We also have updates from EUROLIS and IFLA, including a very important statement from Donna Scheeder on the prosecution of Natalya Sharina. Jan Richards writes about a conference she attended in Australia which included a boat trip around Sydney Harbour and Ian Stringer (Chair of CILIP ILIG) describes an unexpected library encounter he had whilst on a skiing holiday in France!



The last issue of *Focus* – a 50 Years of *Focus* retrospective¹ – was always going to be a tough act to follow. In it, Roger Stringer described the task of Editor as follows: “...deciding whether unsolicited contributions should be used (and perhaps having to say ‘thank you, but no thank you’); watching out for opportunities to approach someone to write a (hopefully interesting!) topical article; chasing authors who haven’t submitted their promised contribution by the deadline; looking for ‘fillers’ to fit the required number of pages – basically, hoping that recipients will open their copy of the journal and find something that attracts their attention!

I have every confidence that future editors will continue do the same, and that *Focus* will continue to inform CILIP ILIG members about library and information services all around the world.”

I’ll do my best, Roger. I’ll do my best!

Phil Segall, Editor

¹CILIP International Library and Information Group (2017) CILIP ILIG Focus 48(1) [Online] Available via: <https://www.cilip.org.uk/international-library-information-group/focus/focus-international-library-information-work-members-access> [Accessed 26 Jun. 2017 - CILIP ILIG members only.]

Focus on International Library and Information Work is published electronically three times a year (March, July and November) by the International Library and Information Group (ILIG) of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

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Subscriptions for 2017: £80.00; US\$160.00; €120.00

Orders, remittances (payable to ‘CILIP ILIG’), and advertisements to: Kathleen Ladizesky, Glantrisant, Trisant, Aberystwyth SY23 4RL UNITED KINGDOM

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Front cover image courtesy of NASA

Achievements and Aspirations: The International Librarians Network

2012-2017

by Cate Carlyle*

27 March 2017 marked the end of an era for librarianship and information professionals. On that day librarians Alyson Dalby, Clare McKenzie and Kate Byrne, the founders of the International Librarians Network (ILN), announced that the ILN would be disbanding after five very successful years. The ILN provided free, online peer mentorship for information professionals and students in the library and information sciences (LIS) community around the globe. The network was run on a shoe string budget with tremendous volunteer input.

Background

In late 2012 these three Australian librarians had an idea to create a program allowing library professionals from anywhere in the world to meet virtually and share information. The trio borrowed from established professional development and mentoring practices to create their own unique network. The program was based on a “principle of professional reciprocity” (Byrne, Dalby and McKenzie 2016)¹ and the belief that all participants bring value to the program regardless of position, seniority or location. While traditional hierarchical mentoring models focus on a senior to junior mentoring model, the International Librarians Network peer mentoring model paired participants on the basis of professional interest.

The network used a simple website and the Twitter platform to attract participants. The network ran for four months at a time and anyone working or studying in library and information management, archives or museums was able to participate. All communications were conducted online with some mentors choosing to be matched by career stage or interest while others were open to any match. Mentors were given suggested topics to discuss and encouraged to be in contact every two weeks. After four months participants could join the network for



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former elementary school teacher-librarian, Cate has also worked in public libraries and volunteers internationally. Cate is a member of The Partnership's Education Institute Programming Team for Canada, an editor of the International Journal of Librarianship and a children's book reviewer. cate.carlyle@mvsu.ca



INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS NETWORK

ILN founders Kate Byrne, Alyson Dalby and Clare McKenzie

further rounds or continue their peer relationship independently.

Model

The International Librarians Network was run by volunteers as a non-profit organization. In addition to the three founding Directors, there were Coordinators, Consultants,

Content Officers who managed the blog content and behind the scenes work, and Country Ambassadors. In its final year, there were 31 countries represented by Country Ambassadors. In its pilot round, the ILN had 92 participants representing 18 countries. As of March 2016 the network boasted an impressive 1162

participants representing 95 countries. When the ILN disbanded they had represented over 130 countries and served 5500 participants. As the former Country Ambassador for Canada to the ILN I represented and promoted the program within my own country and professional organizations, both virtually and in person, as well as representing Canada to the larger ILN group. Ambassadors were encouraged to promote the program on social media using Facebook and Twitter, through their professional and personal networks, and at conferences and professional events. Ambassadors

communicated internally within a Google Group, sharing success stories, challenges and personal events. There was an Ambassador Handbook outlining responsibilities, a code of conduct, and privacy and security parameters. In my time as Ambassador my professional network grew exponentially. While I was not able to meet fellow Ambassadors in person, we did chat online and via Skype and I do know of many who have met in person at international conferences. Fellow Ambassadors from the UK, China, South Africa and Hong Kong spoke of the many



ILN Content Officer Bhakti Gala

benefits they experienced as ILN Ambassadors including engaging with likeminded professionals around the world, interacting with participants in their home countries, having the opportunity to write postings for the ILN and presenting on the organization at conferences.

Participants

The reasons for joining the ILN varied by country, participant, career stage and professional goals. While 90% of global participants cited the fact that they wanted to “develop their international professional network” as a reason for joining, 30% also joined simply to support a free program (Byrne, Dalby and McKenzie 2016)¹. New professionals joined to gain insight into the LIS profession and add a professional program to their resume, while those in the later stages of their career joined to give back, to share knowledge and expertise. In the words of participant and former ILN Content Officer Bhakti Gala from Gujarat, India, we “experienced the magic that this program had unleashed - the magic of connections. These connections not only brought the world of Library and Information Science professionals closer, but connected the global LIS community in terms of challenges and issues faced.”

Once matched with a mentor, participants were introduced (virtually) to their partners and could communicate with ILN Coordinators via email if necessary. Mentors decided independently how often to interact and the form that communication

would take, with options including email, video conferencing, telephone and social media platforms. Some challenges for participants included: establishing trust and rapport while using digital communication and ensuring that online communication was as much of a priority as face to face meetings; time zones; cultural and language barriers; and competing priorities and demands. During my initial round, while paired with a public librarian from Australia, I was challenged by the time delay and also became frustrated a few weeks into the round when my partner rarely responded to my emails. The ILN Coordinators proved to be a valuable support system in my partnership and acted as liaison to encourage my partner and facilitate better communication.

Looking ahead

The time commitment to continue the ever expanding ILN proved too much for the three founders, all with very successful full time careers and all now working around the globe. After extensively investigating whether to continue the ILN in a different form and seeking input from all members of the organization, Alyson, Clare and Kate decided it would be best to disband the ILN mentoring program but maintain the social media accounts, blog and website for the near future (<https://interlibnet.org>). I am hopeful that the partnerships, friendships, knowledge sharing and networking made possible by the ILN will continue to

grow and flourish. While many library and information associations and organizations maintain mentorship programs, there is currently no other organization like the ILN to fill the large gap it leaves in our profession. The combination of an international focus, volunteer infrastructure and online format were truly unique. As a former Ambassador I am aware of many volunteers who are pledging to keep in contact and ensure that this community thrives, even if it must be in a more informal manner. The founders stated that they “will document the processes we used to run the program, including the lessons we learned as we went along. This information will be shared under a creative commons licence, so that other passionate professionals can build on our efforts, and create exciting, innovative professional development offerings of their own”² (<https://interlibnet.org/2017/03/27/the-future-of-the-iln/>). The ILN nurtured a group of very knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers, all advocates for the organization and the profession as a whole. This global

group is well equipped to continue the work of the ILN in terms of fostering communication, networking, advocating and sharing knowledge globally for the betterment of the LIS profession. The ILN is proof that a global organization can run successfully using volunteers despite perceived political, social and language barriers. At a somewhat troubling time in the world, when political and social issues cause division and chaos, we are in dire need of such committed, caring and knowledgeable professionals dedicated to truth, service and the future of our global society.

References

¹Byrne, K. Dalby, A. and McKenzie, C. (2016) Rethinking Mentoring: Online, International Peer Mentoring with the International Librarians Network. available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3413632> [accessed 23 July 2017]

²ILN (2017) International Librarians Network. [online] Available at: <http://interlibnet.org/2017/03/27/the-future-of-the-iln/> [accessed 23 July 2017]

ILIG on Facebook

If you're on Facebook, why don't you join us?

www.facebook.com/groups/13131232426

Make contact with librarians around the world and start networking!

STEAM into Sydney

By Jan Richards*

For three great days in March public librarians from around the world converged on Sydney to learn about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) as part of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Public Libraries Standing Committee's mid-term meeting.

It has become traditional for the Standing Committee to offer a seminar programme for colleagues from within the host country and these are always popular. The 2017 programme STEAM into Sydney was no exception. With inspirational speakers and best practice

examples on offer plus tours to some of Sydney's newest and most beautiful libraries is it any wonder that the programme was booked out in four hours! Delegates were drawn from eleven countries including all states of Australia. We were also delighted to welcome a sizeable contingent of library professionals from neighbouring New Zealand.

The topic for the seminar was selected in response to the demand for such a programme within the Australian public library community and the success of this decision to proceed was demonstrated by the overwhelming interest in the event. The programme was a careful mix of curated content and a call for papers. Given the richness of programmeing delegates were encouraged to read the papers in advance (available on the website) and then engage in facilitated discussion which maximised participation.

The papers and PowerPoint slides are available on the STEAM website¹. We also live-steamed the seminar programme and this is available on our YouTube² channel. Finally (and most importantly) the Australian Library and Information Association have created a full report on the event³ which is available to download.

My personal insight from STEAM? It was fabulous to see people from so many countries and cultures coming together to share their experiences and learn from each other. Through



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library associations over many years and is a former President and Fellow of the Australian Library and Information Association. She is currently Chair of the Australian Public Libraries Alliance and a member of the Library Council of New South Wales. Jan is also a strong advocate for the International Federation of Library and Information Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and is Secretary/Information Coordinator of IFLA Standing Committee on Public Libraries and the Chair of IFLA Committee on Standards.



Delegates from Japan, New Zealand, USA and Australia joined together to explore STEAM initiatives and enjoy Sydney's spectacular harbour



Sydney Harbour Bridge

my involvement with IFLA I am constantly reminded of how we have more in common than differences that divide. To see my Australian colleagues come to this realisation by being able to deliver an international seminar on home soil was a delight.

The presentations demonstrated that STEAM programming is already a core component of public library service delivery, it's about shifting your thinking and working with your community.

STEAM into Sydney was the impetus for a raft of initiatives around Australia and international partnerships and information sharing. A fabulous event ... and then there was the Conference Dinner!

References:

- ¹ Richards, J. and Morgan Bindon, M. (2017) Steam into Sydney: Papers [online] Available at: <https://steamintosydney.wordpress.com> [Accessed 18 June 2017].
- ² IFLA (2017) IFLA Public Libraries Section. [online] Available at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDVM8JHITIdSs_FU9Sa89gw [Accessed 18 June 2017].
- ³ Australian Public Library Alliance and the Australian Library and Information Association (2017) How public libraries contribute to The Stem Agenda [online] Available at: https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/How_public_libraries_contribute_to_the_STEM_agenda_2017.pdf [Accessed 18 June 2017]

Notes for contributors to Focus

Articles for publication in *Focus* are always welcome. *Focus* is not peer-reviewed, and articles are primarily intended to keep readers (who are professionals from a variety of different types of library and information services) informed about what is going on in the international library and information world, to introduce new ideas and programmes, report on activities and experiences, etc., rather than be 'academic treatises'.

Articles are normally between 1,500 and 2,000 words, though can be a little longer if necessary. The inclusion of references and URLs/links to further information is valuable, as are relevant photos (640 × 480 at 300dpi), if appropriate.

Focus is published in March, July and November.

Copy deadline is normally the end of January, May and September, respectively.

Please e-mail material for consideration to the editor at iligfocus@cilip.org.uk

Articles should normally not have been previously published, or be under consideration elsewhere.

IFLA's International Advocacy Programme (IAP): A worldwide effort to get libraries into National Development Plans

by Maria Violeta Bertolini*

The International Advocacy Programme (IAP)¹ continues as a worldwide advocacy campaign to get libraries into national development plans. Participants from more than 73 countries are carrying out awareness-raising and advocacy activities to show the important role libraries play in development, and to ensure libraries are included in the United Nations 2030 Agenda planning and implementation processes. Over 150 people took part in six IAP Regional Workshops² organised by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and a global convening is planned for November 2017.

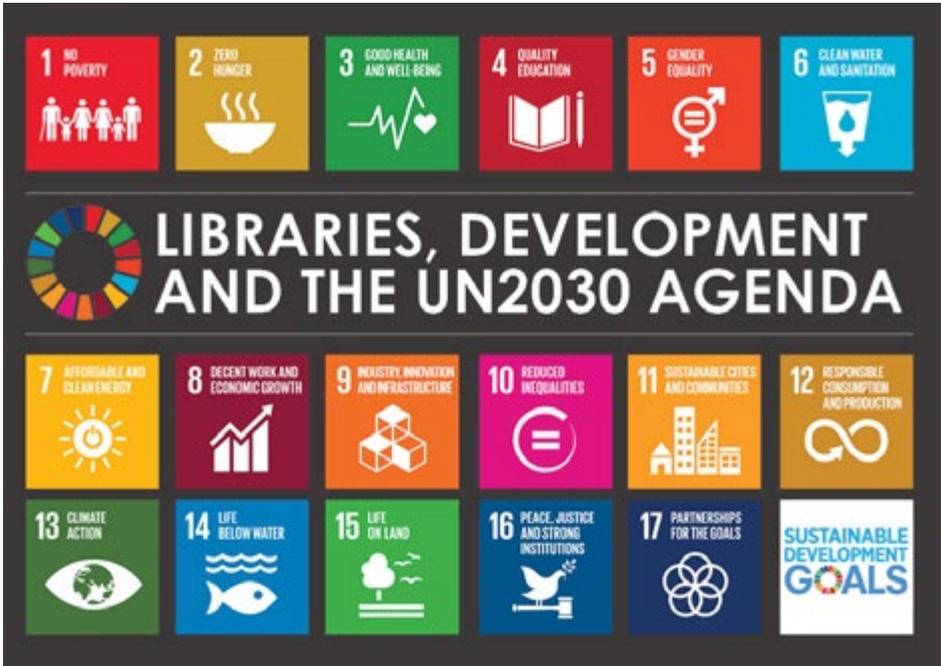
The, recently published, IAP Update – May 2017³ features activities and plans reported by IAP participants between February 2017 and the end of May 2017. The document is structured according to the four regions (Africa, Asia Oceania, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean) where the six IFLA IAP Regional Workshops have taken place. 65 countries offered updates as part of the most recent IAP Update, including 26 new countries/territories from the first update launched in February

2017⁴ (Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Uganda, Bahrein, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, the Netherlands and Ukraine, Aruba, the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay).

To support the advocacy work carried out by the library community at national, regional and global levels, IFLA launched a second call for examples of how libraries contribute to development⁵ in March 2017. IFLA invites the library community to submit examples of library and information programmes, products or services that are clearly linked to one or more SDG(s). For this, a worldwide survey was launched by IFLA and is currently available in eight languages (Arabic, Chinese, English⁶, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese). Although English is preferred, answers can be submitted in any of the IFLA official languages⁷.

Earlier this year, IFLA launched a worldwide call for proposals⁸ to request funding for the implementation of regional or national awareness-raising and capacity building activities for 2017-2018, as part of the International Advocacy Programme (IAP). A record number of proposals were submitted (115 from all regions

*Maria Violeta Bertolini is IFLA Advocacy Communications Officer



in the world) showing the great commitment of the library and information community to ensure libraries are involved in the United Nations 2030 Agenda⁹ planning and implementation at the local, regional and global level. Ten proposals were selected¹⁰ and are now under way in four regions (Africa, Americas, Asia Oceania and Europe). The IFLA IAP will launch a second call for proposals towards the end of 2017.

Are you also taking action related to the UN 2030 Agenda and libraries in your country or region? Let IFLA know! Send an email with details about your future and/or past activities related to libraries and the

UN 2030 Agenda to IFLA Advocacy Communications Officer (violeta.bertolini@ifla.org).

Learn more about Libraries, Development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda here: www.ifla.org/libraries-development¹¹ and follow @IFLA_Lib4Dev in Twitter to stay tuned for more!

References:

¹IFLA(2017) The International Advocacy Programme (IAP) [online] Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11149> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

² IFLA (2017) 72 countries are now part of IFLA's International Advocacy Programme (IAP) [online] Available at <https://www.ifla.org/node/11289> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

³ IFLA (2017) International Advocacy Programme (IAP) Update – May 2017 (IAP) [online] Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11424> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

⁴ IFLA (2017) International Advocacy Programme (IAP) Update – February 2017 (IAP) [online] Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11195> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

⁵ IFLA (2017) IFLA invites you to submit examples of how libraries contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11245> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

⁶ IFLA (2017) Examples of how libraries contribute to the UN 2030 Agenda. Available at: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3311305/Examples-of-how-libraries-contribute-to-the-UN-2030-Agenda> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

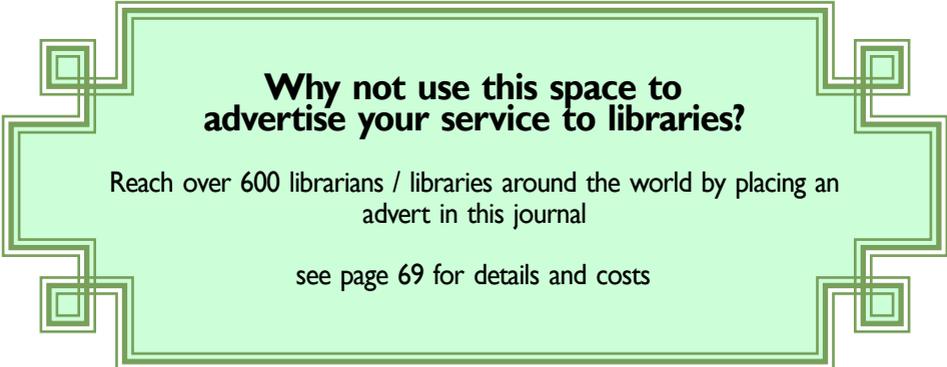
⁷ IFLA (2017) Language Policy [online] Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/language-policy> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

⁸ IFLA (2017) Invitation to submit funding proposals for the International Advocacy Programme (IAP) [online] Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11167> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

⁹ The United Nations (2017) Sustainable Development Goals: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. [online] Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

¹⁰ IFLA (2017) International Advocacy Programme (IAP): Ten projects now under way. Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11470> Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].

¹¹ IFLA (2017) Libraries, Development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2017].



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Call for abstracts

The call for abstracts for the EAHIL (European Association for Health Information Libraries) Cardiff Conference is now open!

The conference themes are the joint work of the IPC (International Programme Committee) and the LOC (Local Organising Committee). For any query about the theme, please contact EAHIL stating the theme and the lead for the sub group will be able to offer you advice.

The LOC has members from many different organisations within and outside Wales. This call for abstracts is being sent out to these organisations and networks.

EAHIL seeks abstracts from colleagues in all sectors. We know that we have a lot to learn about health and wellbeing from each other.

Types of presentations and workshops

There are four different types of presentation and workshop at the conference. Please state on your submission which type you think would best showcase your work. The categories are:

- Continuing Education Courses (9 and 10 July)
- Parallel sessions: Interactive and hands on workshops

- Parallel sessions: Lecture style. This will include panel discussion and questions from the audience.
- Digital Poster* exhibition.

Information and presentations from this June's EAHIL2017 Dublin workshop can be found here: www.eahil2017.net

Timetable

Deadline for Abstract Submissions: **October 27 2017**

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: **December 1 2017**

Deadline for Registration for Presenters: **March 30 2018**

To register and for more details, see contact details at: <https://eahilcardiff2018.wordpress.com/contact/>

*The poster exhibition will be electronic for the first time at an EAHIL conference. You will be asked to send a JPEG of your poster to the Cardiff exhibition team and we will do the rest. All posters will be available on e-poster monitors in the conference exhibition and on the conference website. These electronic posters will also be available for the online CPD EAHIL courses. Please contact EAHIL if you have any queries.

CILIP ILIG has a twitter account:

[@CILIP_ILIG](https://twitter.com/CILIP_ILIG)

Follow us to get the latest updates on CILIP ILIG news and events, tweets from CILIP conference, news from CILIP and of international interest, and to communicate with us and let us know what you would like CILIP ILIG to do for you.

Natalya Sharina Judgement:

Statement by IFLA President Donna Scheeder

IFLA President Donna Scheeder made the following statement¹ on the judgement in the case of Natalya Sharina on 12 June 2017:

“IFLA has been following with concern the case of Natalya Sharina, the former librarian of the Library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow ever since she was arrested in October 2015.

“Natalya, the former librarian of the Library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow, was accused of suspicion of inciting hatred or animosity toward a social group. Prosecutors claimed that her library held banned books, by the Ukrainian nationalist Dmytro Korchynsky. Subsequently she was also charged with misappropriation of funds.

“She always claimed that the books had been planted during the raid and strongly denied the accusation of financial misappropriation.

“Guided by its Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), IFLA argued that Natalya’s detention and prosecution were unnecessary and disproportionate². They also constitute an attack on libraries and librarians.

“As IFLA’s Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom of 1999 underlines, ‘libraries contribute to the development and maintenance

of intellectual freedom and help to safeguard basic democratic values and universal civil rights. [...] To this end, libraries shall acquire, preserve and make available the widest variety of materials, reflecting the plurality and diversity of society’. The selection and availability of library materials and services should, therefore, be ‘governed by professional considerations and not by political, moral and religious views’.

“The action against therefore Natalya constituted an attack on democracy, learning and culture.

“The case has now concluded and Natalya has been found guilty and given a four-year suspended prison sentence^{3,4}. Natalya continues to argue her innocence and has indicated that she is planning to appeal a case which she believes was politically motivated.

“IFLA is very disappointed at the outcome of the case, even if her release from house arrest is a positive step forwards. It supports Natalya in her appeal and wishes her well with the outcome.

“IFLA calls on the authorities in Russia, and around the world, to bring the banning of books and the persecution of librarians to an end. For the good of their citizens and civil society, governments must recognise and support libraries in their role as gateways to knowledge, thought and culture.”

References:

¹IFLA's statements can be found at <https://www.ifla.org/node/9992>, <https://www.ifla.org/node/10488> and <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/10844>, <https://www.ifla.org/node/11070>

²Ibid

³See the BBC and Amnesty international reports at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-40162173>

⁴<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/06/russia-conviction-of-librarian-for-holding-extremist-books-demonstrates-utter-contempt-for-rule-of-law/>

Winners of ILIG's Library Quiz held at CILIP Conference

Visitors to CILIP ILIG's stand at the CILIP Conference 2017 had the chance to identify famous people who have worked in libraries and enter a draw to win an annual membership to CILIP ILIG

The five lucky winners are:

Carolin Shneider, University of Leeds
Caitlin McCulloch, Renfrewshire Leisure
Cara Clare, QA Higher Education
Carol Smith, Bedford Hospital
Sam Goldsmith, Leeds City College

who correctly identified Bob Dylan, Dusty Springfield, Frankie Boyle, Giacomo Casanova, J. Edgar Hoover, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Laura Bush, Mao Zedong, Melvin Dewey and Nick Poole!

EUROLIS in 2017

By John Lake*

EUROLIS is a co-operative planning group of librarians from European cultural centres in the United Kingdom currently representing France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and CILIP ILIG in the UK. This range is always open to a broader range of cultural institutes located in the UK representing other countries in Europe.

The group was convened 15 years ago by CILIP stalwart members, Mike Saich and Eric Winter of the (then) London and Home Counties Branch of CILIP and now through CILIP ILIG represented by myself, Anna Jablkowska (Secretary of CILIP ILIG) and Anabel Lopez from the Tri-borough Authority in London.

Our main purpose is to promote the use and understanding of European languages in the UK but the group also contributes to the shared understanding of professional practice on a European-wide level through its annual seminar. Full details of the work of EUROLIS can be found on the wordpress site: <https://eurolis.wordpress.com/about-us/>

The 2017/8 Eurotoolbox Collection of Children's Books in European Languages

This year's collection of the best children's books in seven European

** John Lake is immediate past Editor of Focus and a member of the EUROLIS planning group*

languages¹ is to be launched (at time of writing) and available for viewing at the joint School Library Association and CILIP Youth Libraries Group event at Harrogate: <http://www.sla.org.uk/weekend-course-2017.php>².

If you are not familiar with the Eurotoolbox there is a longer article in Focus Vol 46, No. 3, November 2015 and details of how to access this free resource for libraries in the UK at the EUROLIS WordPress site: <https://eurolis.wordpress.com/eurotoolbox-2017/> This year's collection of books once again includes the shortlisted titles from the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards for 2017 thanks to the donation of a set of the books and promotion packs from CILIP. All the books in the languages included have been carefully and expertly selected and come with a bilingual illustrated bibliography of the books to accompany the collection. The Eurotoolbox collection can be booked for your school or library now free of charge (other than onward transportation cost) for use in your institution (past collections can be borrowed and loaned out to your users) by contacting Mariella at the Italian Cultural Institute - Mariella Riccobono: maria.riccobono.iic@esteri.it

References:

¹EUROLIS (2017) EUROLIS: About us [online] Available at: <https://eurolis.wordpress.com/about-us/> [Accessed 19 Jun. 2017].

²School Library Association (2017) SLA - Weekend Course 2017 [online] Available at: <http://www.sla.org.uk/weekend-course-2017>.

SLAYLG Conference in Harrogate, June 2017

by Anna Jablkowska*

The beautiful Majestic Hotel in the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate was the setting for a very interesting conference arranged by the School Library Association (SLA) and the CILIP's Youth Library Group (YLG). I attended as the CILIP ILIG representative for EUROLIS (the consortium of librarians from European cultural institutes in London) in order to launch the Eurotoolbox for this year.

Eurotoolbox is a special collection of literature for children and youths and is available in French, English, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. It is put together by the respective European Institutes' librarians and is offered to acquisition librarians who are interested in promoting European languages to young people.

Ian Stringer (Chair of CILIP ILIG) very kindly agreed to step in at the last minute to help promote this with me at the EUROLIS conference stall. This was a big help as Ian, who lives in North Yorkshire, was able to get to the hotel early, locate the stall assigned to EUROLIS and the boxes which had been sent in advance.

It was a productive day, we met a lot of school librarians and traders. The Eurotoolbox was well received, as was information about the conference EUROLIS are organising for November. We were able to give out a lot of leaflets about both. We did not forget we were representing CILIP ILIG, so I made contact with potential speakers for the Informals CILIP ILIG organises, as well as finding volunteers to hopefully contribute interesting articles for future issues of *Focus*.



Ian Stringer at the EUROLIS stand at the SLAYLG Conference

*Anna Jablkowska is CILIP ILIG Secretary



Picture: Harry Potter party at the SLA/YLG Conference

There were around 250 delegates, mostly school librarians but we were both surprised how many came from overseas, not just Ireland, but also from Turkey, Romania and Thailand.

In the evening we attended the Harry Potter themed dinner. Unfortunately we were not forewarned of this and so I had no witch's hat and Ian had left his magic wand at home, so we went as muggles! However the fancy dress was a good ice breaker, and we both enjoyed talking to new colleagues.

The following day we were joined by Emanuelle Martinez from the French Institute, which was lucky for us as that was the busier of the two days.

Many of the other exhibitors were publishers. Ian enjoyed speaking to them and obtaining pencils for his Hensall Pencil reading group. I found it interesting and unlike any other conferences I have attended in that

exhibitors were only invited for two days of the three day conference. I am sure they also enjoyed having a free day on Sunday! For me it was also interesting to have the time to visit the town.

I think EUROLIS gained a lot but that will be confirmed when the bookings for the Eurotoolbox come flooding in. CILIP ILIG also gained from our attendance. It certainly appeared to be a more effective launch of this year's collection of books, in so far as we had a captive audience. I think it will most certainly be worth repeating this venture in the future.

I have to say a special thank you to Tricia Adams from SLA for allowing EUROLIS to take part, and for the assistance she gave throughout the two days. I would also like to thank Ian Stringer for agreeing to step in at a moment's notice and his support throughout the two days.

Healthcare Information For All (HIFA) discussion on national and global emergencies

Tsunamis, earthquakes; terrorism; conflict; biological, chemical or nuclear warfare; disease outbreaks, global pandemics, antimicrobial resistance... The health impact of national and global emergencies depends largely on the degree to which individuals, communities, nations and supranational bodies are adequately informed. To what extent are current library and information services meeting the information needs of different user groups in different contexts? Where are the gaps and what are the priorities for future action?

Everyone with an interest in global health, disasters, disease outbreaks and humanitarian response is invited to explore these and other questions in a major thematic discussion on HIFA (Healthcare Information For All) which started on 17 July and continues until 18 August 2017.^a

Caroline De Brún of Public Health England (PHE) has carried out a preliminary PHE/HIFA Evidence Briefing around the question: What is the evidence around knowledge and library service provision and knowledge management to support global health, and disaster and emergency preparedness?

HIFA is working with Public Health England, Evidence Aid and HIFA LIS in this new HIFA Library and Information Services project. More information can be found here:

<http://www.hifa.org/news/join-hifa-major-thematic-discussion-library-and-information-services-emergencies-disasters-and>

ABOUT HIFA

HIFA is a growing global health movement working in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Geneva and more than 300 other health and development organisations worldwide. HIFA has more than 16,000 members (health workers, librarians, publishers, researchers, policymakers and others) committed to the progressive realisation of a world where every person has access to the information they need to protect their own health and the health of others. HIFA members have experience and knowledge which they can use to bring clarity to challenging questions around global health issues in general and healthcare information issues in particular - including for example public health communication during health emergencies. HIFA has more than 5000 members in Africa, 5000 in Europe, and 6000 in the rest of the world, across 176 countries.

The website is www.hifa.org and membership is free: www.hifa.org/join

The Miracle of Brides-les-Bains

by Ian Stringer*

Early this year I went on a skiing holiday. Nothing to do with libraries, I thought. I joined my son and family and a few friends in a big chalet in Méribel, one of the best French Alpine resorts. My son and his family went for two weeks in their car and I joined them for the second week travelling by train from St Pancras direct to Moutiers for the coach to the chalet. I travelled with my friend Steve and my son Andy took our skis out on his ski rack.

We had a great week!

On the last day Steve and I were booked on the 23.10 from Moutiers to St Pancras but Andy went off early with the skis. So...we had a day to kill in a ski resort with no skis. No worries we caught the cable car down the mountain to Brides-les-Bains below the snow line. We had a great time and climbed a small mountain zig-zagging to the top.

We stopped for breath a couple of times and finally reached the summit. We sat on the seat and admired the view. We then ambled down and found a good restaurant. After a good lunch, we prepared to leave when I realised I hadn't got my bag. It was a precious Glasgow IFLA bag from 2002 and it contained my iPad, my train ticket and our coach tickets. Calamity. There was no sign of it in the restaurant - I must have left it on the mountain!

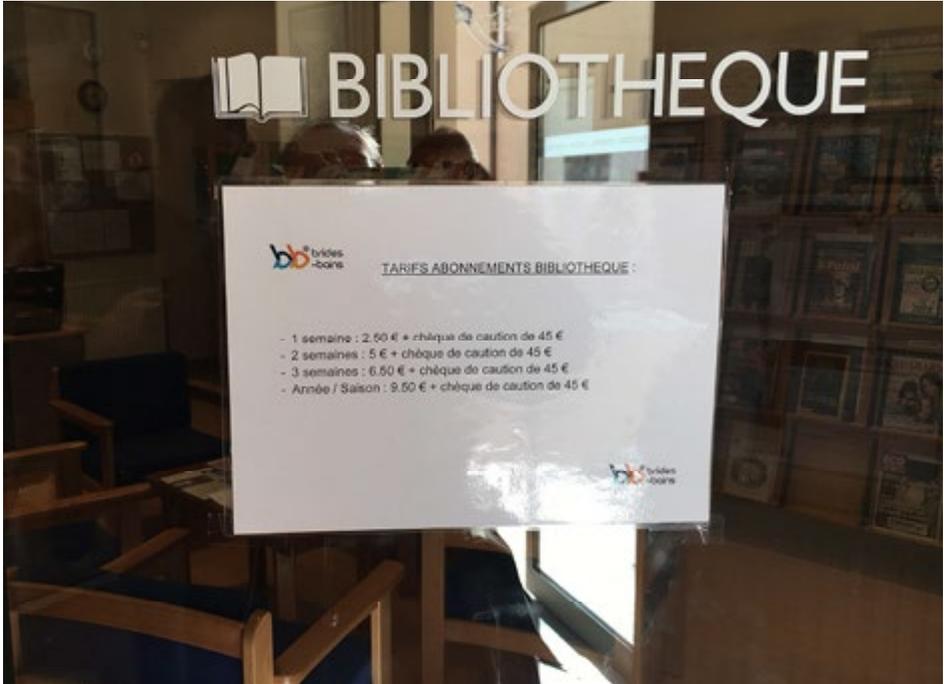
I shot off at high speed back up the

mountain. I finally reached the top for the second time and found a very old lady in the seat. I asked about my bag, but she had no English. So in my best schoolboy French I explained about the bag and stressed that it said Glasgow in big letters on it. She understood and repeated Glasgow. She suggested I go to the gendarmerie. SO I went back down the mountain, found Steve and went looking for the gendarmerie. But we couldn't find it. So what does the good librarian do in such circumstances? He goes to the library!

There was a good library and they immediately told me where to find the gendarmerie. Two minutes later we were in the basement of the town hall explaining our misfortune to a very helpful gendarme. My French was stretched to the limit but Google Translate was really useful! He took my details and wrote Glasgow in big letters.

I then asked for a crime number but unfortunately he could not give me one. If I went to the nearest large town Méribel they would give me one there. Fortunately Méribel was where we were going. So we went back up the mountain in the cable car and found the gendarmerie and queued. As it was taking a while, Steve went off to the coach company to show his message from me about the coach tickets. We hoped they would accept this as proof that we had really booked.

**Ian Stringer is CILIP ILIG Chair*



Meribel Bibliotheque

When I finally got served the gendarme told me he couldn't give me an insurance number but the Police could. He told me where to find the police station. I wasn't aware till then that France has two types of police. However a very friendly police man with a little English and a lot of Google Translate got me the necessary paper work.

Steve met me and the coach company were fine about our ticket. So we set off down the mountain to the railway station at Moutiers where we had a 5 hour wait for our train. We discussed how we could show

the railway staff Steve's ticket and my booking email and we hoped they would be understanding...

And then I got a text from Brides-les-Bains gendarme. My bag had been handed in and I could collect it if we could get there by 6. It was now nearly 5pm. So we had a nervy coach ride down to Moutiers. There we immediately got in a taxi and asked her to take us to Brides-les-Bains gendarmerie toute suite.

She got us there for 5.45 and the gendarme was still there. The bag had been handed in by the lady on

the mountain. A staunch catholic, she had been so upset by my story that she had prayed for me. Then halfway down the mountain she stopped at the shrine, and there leaning on the wooden cross was a bag with the word Glasgow on it. It was a miracle and she dashed off to tell the gendarme. I must have left the bag on the way up the mountain.

The gendarme was so pleased. A miracle had happened, I'd got my bag,

the lady could tell it to all on Sunday in church and he had solved a crime!

We went back to Moûtiers somewhat slower but somewhat happier, gave the taxi lady a big tip and had a wonderful meal out.

So had I not been a librarian, it's doubtful that I would have had such a noticeable bag and I also got use out of the local library!



Brides-les-Bains

Big impact, low budget marketing for libraries in uncertain times

Thursday 12th October 2017 -
9:30am to 4:30pm

Programme

Morning – Thinking within a low budget - Marketing concepts and libraries

- Marketing in an era of sustained cost reduction. Making it possible.
- How to really get attention - using value for impact
- Grouping your users for marketing communications - making sure someone is listening
- Developing effective marketing messages targeted at specific user groups - what should we say to them?

Afternoon: - Action within a low budget - Developing your marketing insights with as little cost as possible

- Thinking about implementing your marketing ideas from this morning - the importance of preparing the way
- Choosing your priority groups for marketing effort
- A plan for marketing messages and how to get them to users without huge expenditure
- Making it all happen with impact
- Discussion around implementing marketing activities

Speaker

Terry Kendrick has trained library and information staff in marketing for over 20 years. Originally qualified as a librarian, Terry is currently Director of Executive Education at Leeds University Business School. He has written a number of articles on marketing planning and is the author of “Developing strategic marketing plans that really work: a toolkit for public libraries” published by Facet.

Cost

ILIG members £100+VAT=£120, CILIP members £110+VAT=£132,
Non CILIP members £125+VAT=£150, Unwaged CILIP members £95+VAT=£114

If you would like to book a place on this course or find out more information please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/2nZUwpG> or contact ilig@cilip.org.uk.

Committee Profile: Jamie Finch



Twenty years, a librarian. A time to take stock, reevaluate my life choices, and for good old reflection (hello Fellowship application!). Like many, I never intended to be a librarian. However, after completing a history degree, and a few dead-end jobs later, the Aberystwyth Diploma in Information and Library Studies (DILS) brochure was calling to me. 1997 was not all about Tony Blair, Oasis or the Spice Girls. A nascent mass-market

internet began sending shock waves throughout our community. I saw only opportunity; the chance to unite my love of technology, history, and all that I studied before.

Like Alan Sugar, I have always loved business. But, unlike Alan Sugar, I've been too risk-adverse to do anything about it. The next best thing for me was to be a business librarian. Prior to my current role, I spent over a decade

indulging this love in three specialist libraries; a government business advisory service, an HR professional association, and, lastly, a property consultancy. Sadly, when the Lehman Brothers in America collapsed and, with it, the global property investment market, I found myself “between jobs”.

As the Noughties waned, I was very grateful to Cardiff Metropolitan University in the northern leafy Cardiff suburb of Llandaff for offering me a port in the economic storm. Initially part-time as a business librarian due to my family commitments. However, Cardiff Met was expanding internationally. In my time here, I have witnessed the steady growth of student numbers to roughly 10,000 students studying locally. Complemented with c. 9,000 studying at their non-United Kingdom host institutions that deliver franchised courses in Cardiff Met’s name or brand. Our partners span the globe from Oman and Sri Lanka to the Far East.

Primarily to act as library liaison, Cardiff Met created the new post of International Librarian about 18 months ago which I was lucky enough to win. No jokes about Austin Powers please! I am a fixer, a go-between: I take ownership of partner and international student enquiries. Anecdotal evidence suggests both prefer to put a face or a name to a service. If I don’t know the answer, I escalate and follow-up. Luckily, I work closely with Academic Schools and other talented colleagues, particularly an IT liaison, to offer such support.

As this job depends so much on cooperation, my first task was to list anyone and everyone relevant to my role, known as stakeholder mapping or analysis (See CILIP’s Impact Toolkit¹).

My day-to-day includes an international library Facebook site, tours for incoming visitors (I hope to reciprocate soon!), buying ebooks, and answering enquiries via email and Webchat. A key pledge in my personal manifesto is to increase international student engagement with our eLibrary, and I have taken the first tentative steps in developing an eLesson hosted on Moodle.

My quest to network and find other international librarians led me to CILIP ILIG and I was soon co-opted to their Committee. With Brexit, the winds of global change begin to blow again. Higher education institutions up and down the land go about their due diligence speculating on how they might be effected. To me, there will always be some certainty. Certainty that ‘being international’ - outward-looking collaborative research or having a diverse student population – is axiomatic in UK Universities. And also that we, with global access to our local collections, are all international librarians now [Discuss].

Reference:

¹CILIP (2017) Impact Toolkit. [online] Available at: <https://www.cilip.org.uk/membership/benefits/virtual-learning-environment-vle/impact-toolkit> [Accessed 19 June 2017 – login required for full access].

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CILIP ILIG INFORMALS AND MEETINGS

CILIP ILIG Informal

Wednesday 13 September at CILIP Head Office
David Streatfield: Gates Foundation - impact evaluation

Further details available via CILIP website: <http://bit.ly/2qTHbny>

CILIP ILIG Informal

Wednesday 11 October at CILIP Head Office
“What is EUROLIS?”

Further details available via CILIP website: <http://bit.ly/2tfxuS8>

CILIP ILIG Course (full day)

Thursday 12 October at CILIP Head Office
Big impact, low budget marketing for libraries in uncertain times

See <http://bit.ly/2phWZj4> for details.

EUROLIS Seminar

Friday 17 November at the Cervantes Institute
Fit for Purpose

See <https://eurolis.wordpress.com/> for more information.

Informals with venues and dates to be confirmed

The ESU/CILIP Travelling Librarian Award Winner for 2016
with Leanne Young of University of Sunderland

The CILIP Anthony Thompson Award Winner 2016
with Avis Holder from Trinidad and Tobago

Informals are friendly and informative gatherings. They are aimed at anyone who has an interest in the international library and information scene. There is no charge and our Informals allow plenty of time for networking and free refreshments.

Keep up to date with CILIP ILIG via its web pages at www.cilip.org.uk/ilig

