



Action for Development through Libraries Programme Core Activity (ALP)

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

By Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer

MISSION

Libraries constitute the basis for all citizens' free access to information. Thereby everyone is given the opportunity to participate in the democratic processes of the society and improve their lives. By furthering library and information services in Africa, Asia and Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Action for development through Libraries Programme (ALP) aims at supporting main key human development issues: literacy, lifelong learning, bridging the digital divide and sustainable development.

ALP is mission oriented and not subject oriented like other IFLA core activities. Therefore, co-operation with relevant IFLA professional bodies and with regional and international organisations is essential to carry out the programme.

ALP achieves its mission through a carefully planned programme of activities and close co-operation between the International Focal Point of ALP and IFLA's Regional Offices, IFLA's Regional Division and its three sections, and other partners. This co-operation includes fundraising, scholarships and attachment programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops, publications and databases.

STAFF AND FINANCE

IFLA, Uppsala University and 14 Nordic library associations and institutions fund the International Focal Point (IFP) for ALP at Uppsala University Library. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funds are also used for the secretariat. To this should be added contributions in kind from Uppsala University Library.

The ALP IFP is staffed by: Birgitta Sandell, Director of the Programme, and Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer (part-time 40%).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

ALP Meetings and Seminars

Sida supported ALP with 265.000 EUR in 2008. In addition to the funds Sida has allocated for the professional activities, those responsible for projects in the regions contributed with their own resources and raised considerable funds from external sources.

Continuing education for librarians in the Caribbean (Jamaica)

Eleven persons from public libraries in the English Speaking Caribbean participated in the project that included three distinct segments.

- Attendance at the ACURIL (the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries) conference held in Jamaica from June 1 to June 4, 2008. The theme was "The E-Librarian: Ideas, Innovation and Inspiration". The participants benefited from 4 days of discussions and workshops on the role of technology in the delivery of library and information services. Each participant not only attended sessions of greatest relevance to his or her situation but also met and held discussions with librarians and other information specialists from the entire Caribbean and North America.
- Classroom lectures at the University of the West Indies June 9-13. Twelve lecture sessions on topics of the participants' choice.
- Four field trips.

Valuable opportunities for networking also resulted from interaction with the presenters of the lectures as participants were encouraged to maintain contact with them. They also benefited from living together, studying together and interacting with each other for 2 weeks. The participants described the benefits derived from making these new contacts as being invaluable.

Regional workshop to review library school curriculum in West Africa to include ICT and Information Literacy

The workshop took place in July 21-24, 2008 in Lagos, Nigeria. The 22 participants came from Anglophone West Africa; Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Liberia and Nigeria. The objective was to share information and review Library and Information School curricula. Recommendations about what should be included in the LIS courses were made as well as other resources needed for effective teaching, such as electricity supply (libraries should explore the use of solar energy rather than total dependence on the general supplier), network and connectivity, enough lecturers, more space and more training for staff.

Workshop on the role of library services in Central America

The workshop took place 10-12 July in Panama. 61 people from Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama participated. There were representatives from universities, public and school libraries, and from Library Schools. The aim of the workshop was to determine the role of the libraries according to the IFLA/Unesco manifestos and to concretize continuing education programmes both in library schools and in libraries. At the end of the workshop a Declaration was signed, a document describing the situation in the region with recommendations for actions. The coordinators of the working groups are responsible for the pursuit of the recommendations. The university of Panama contributed with 14.000 USD. The participants have got a better understanding of the role of library service and have decided to collaborate in the development of activities and programmes to strengthen the librarians and the libraries on all levels.

Workshop on management of library associations in Latin America

The workshop was held in Colombia 23-25 April with 27 delegates from 19 countries. It resulted in several recommendations, and associations responsible for carrying them out were appointed. A group consisting of the associations from Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay is responsible for reporting to the IFLA-LAC Section on the advances of the actions decided upon at the workshop.

Workshop on Information Literacy

This five-days workshop was held 7-11 July 2008 in Indonesia. A total of 50 people attended the workshop, 55 with the coordinators. Candidates had to apply and participants were drawn from a short-list based on their information literacy skills, English language skills and their potential to spread Information Literacy in their regions. The objective to produce integrated lesson plans and information literacy modules from elementary to high school level was met. The participants have improved their understanding and knowledge of information literacy and how to integrate it in local curricula. They have learned how to develop strategies and how to train other colleagues on Information Literacy. The workshop result, modules, will also be submitted to the Ministry to promote IL and to make IL integrated in the education system.

Seminar in the Amazon region on the IFLA/UNESCO Manifestos on public libraries and school libraries, Internet, and the Information Society in Action

A regional seminar took place 20-22 February in Ecuador for the purpose of making people aware of and promoting the IFLA/UNESCO Manifestos. When news of the Seminar in Quito became known it got a massive response, librarians in Ecuador had never before got together to discuss their common problems and aims. As many as 370 people from all parts of the country participated in the seminar which was given wide coverage in all the media (television, radio, press). The creation of a network of public libraries can only come true if it becomes part of a wider, regional network that serves as a model and a sponsor. Each participant was given the opportunity to learn from successful enterprises of colleagues in other countries. Librarians in Ecuador are now aware of IFLA's aims and the possibilities they open up for the national library system. The seminar's website, which includes the

guidelines and talks given by visiting (17 foreign speakers) and Ecuadorian speakers, is constantly visited, a clear sign of that the interest in the seminar continues.

A reading survey in Latin America

The project started already in 2006 and a questionnaire on reading was sent out to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The coordinator of the project is Elsa Ramírez, Researcher at the University of Mexico. After compilation of the answers a seminar was arranged June 2008 in Mexico where the results were analysed and discussed. The Proceedings are ready and will be printed in the next few weeks. ALP paid for 12 travels from other countries. The University of Mexico has supported the project with both personnel and funding.

Seminar in Paraguay on the IFLA/Unesco Manifestos on public and school libraries, and Internet

The seminar took place in October in Paraguay in connection with the celebration of the Library Day. 150 librarians attended the two days seminar on the Manifestos. ALP paid for four resource persons coming from Mexico, Argentina and Brazil.

A training programme for less developed countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region in Laos: A way of modelling information literacy (IL) (297)

This five-days workshop on modelling information literacy education took place in June 23 – 27. International presenters, over 35 senior Lao administrators, teachers and librarians met to discuss the development of an information literacy education programme for Laos and trained in Information Literacy principles and practices. Topics included policy development, programme planning, and Information Literacy education integration into university, college, primary and secondary school curricula, as well as training for the general public. Participants shared their ideas regarding the need for Lao people to continue to learn new techniques, technologies and skills for further development of Laos. Before the main workshop a first one for stakeholders was held to ensure sustainability of the project. The stakeholders were identified at an earlier stage where Information Literacy models were tested. This part was funded by Victoria University of Wellington.

Another part of the project was that fieldworkers revised the model to adjust it to the needs and context of Laos such as educational levels of pupils, capabilities of teachers, availability of technology and electricity, use of appropriate resources and the need to achieve gender balance.

A programme for education on Information literacy in Cambodia by developing and implanting a contextually based training programme (298)

The workshop took place 16 – 20 June 2008 and was divided into two parts. 26 key stakeholders took part in the first part (two days). The first part concentrated on Information Literacy Education Policy. These persons will now be able to “champion” the introduction of IL into the curriculum at all levels of education in Cambodia.

In the second part 26 teachers and librarians learnt how to implement IL instructions for their constituents, covering lifelong learning, literacy and Information Literacy and standards, related illiteracies, etc. Questions discussed were: What is lifelong learning, how is IL related to lifelong learning, what are the reasons for developing information policies for Cambodia, how do the cultural dimensions of a country affect the manner in which students learn to be information literate etc.

The results of the workshops will also be achieved by the preparation of guidelines on information policy formulation and information literacy education programme development and management. These guidelines will be prepared in Lao and Khmer and distributed to relevant parties.

Training seminar on Free Software for automated library systems (Senegal)

The four-days seminar was held 18-21 August 2008 in Dakar. 30 participants from Senegal, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, Guinea Bissau and Niger, member countries of the West African Monetary Union, took part in this training. The selection of participants depended on their ability and willingness to organize training sessions for other members of library associations that could not attend this training. Free software for automated library systems is a good alternative to give better

access to documentation when the resources are scarce and the participants learnt how to use it for cataloguing etc. Participants will develop interfaces to be used by the network in the libraries in member countries. The seminar was well covered by the media, two television channels and several articles. At the end of the seminar the participants received CDs with all the free software that had been studied and others that could help in the daily management, to support coming courses electronically. According to the evaluations the seminar was a success and the objectives met.

International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (Nepal)

This conference took place in March 27-29, 2008 in Kathmandu. A total of 110 participants from Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, India, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, USA and Nepal participated in the conference. Three pre-conference workshops on Integrated Library Systems (KOHA), Green Stone Digital Library (GSDL) and Open Journal Systems (OJS) were arranged for three days on each of the topics from 21-26 March. A resolution on Education and Training and Infrastructure Development and Standards was passed. Information about the conference was available at the web site www.icikm-2008.com.np

INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications) and UNESCO contributed both financially and with training at the workshops.

International meeting on library services in indigenous communities

65 librarians, information and communication professionals, educators, managers of information units and institutional leaders attended the meeting in São Paulo 26-28 March 2008. The specific goals – to identify and to exchange experiences, to analyse and evaluate achieved results, to propose mechanisms of cooperation among peoples and institutions, to propose policies and strategies to gain a deeper understanding – were completely achieved. The policy and strategy document for the development of library services to indigenous communities drawn up will be spread. FEBAB (The Brazilian Library Association) contributed with 11.000 USD and Memorial da America Latina with 18.500 to the seminar.

The World Library and Information Congress in Quebec

Speakers Grants

Speaker's grant for younger Professionals to present a paper at the World Library and Information Congress

Six men and four women from India, China, Algeria, Honduras, Nigeria, Uganda, Namibia, Brazil and Peru presented papers at the World Library and Information Congress in Quebec and participated in workshops, meetings and sessions. According to their reports the conference was very useful and they have gained new knowledge regarding services and technologies in the library and information services. They have come in contact with international librarianship, been able to share views, experiences and concerns, and often establish relations with librarians from other parts of the world. One grantee said that after getting this chance he wants to work even more for the library community, sharing his experience with his village and colleagues. For some of them it was the first time they were outside their country.

All papers are available at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/programme2008.htm>.

Birgitta Sandell and Gunilla Natvig participated in the Congress in Quebec and took part in the Regional Standing Committee meetings.

ALP Advisory Board Meeting

A meeting with the ALP Advisory Board was held during the Congress under the chairmanship of Adolfo Rodríguez, Researcher, Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas UNAM, Mexico. The other members are: Premila Gamage, Chair of Div. 8 and member of the Governing Board; Winnie Vitzansky, Secretary General, Danish Library Association; Ulf Göranson, Chief Librarian, Uppsala University; Gary Gorman, Professor of Library and Information Management,

Victoria University of Wellington and Gunnar Sahlin, National Librarian of Sweden and IFLA Treasurer. Another meeting of the Board took place in the Hague in December 2008.

ALP/FAIFE Sida Grant Steering Committee Meeting

A meeting with the ALP/FAIFE Sida Grant Steering Committee took place during the Congress. Members are: Peter Lor, Secretary General, IFLA and Chair of the committee; the Director of ALP, Birgitta Sandell and the director of FAIFE; the Chair of the ALP Advisory Board, Adolfo Rodríguez and the Chair of the FAIFE Advisory Board, Paul Sturges, Professor, Deputy Head of Department of Information Science, Loughborough University. The purpose of this committee is information sharing, promoting collaboration and coordinating of activities and reports. Another meeting of this committee took place in The Hague in December 2008.

IFLA Regional Standing Committee Meetings

The annual meeting of the Regional Standing Committees in their own regions are most important for the development of ALP.

Birgitta Sandell participated in the Africa Section meeting in Pretoria, South Africa and in the Asia and Oceania Section meeting in New Delhi, India. Gunilla Natvig participated in the Section meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean in São Paulo, Brazil.

Scholarships and attachments

In-service training for middle or senior staff in Asia and Oceania

Three people were selected for attachments in 2008 at institutions in the region.

Two librarians from Cambodia and Nepal were offered an attachment at the National Library Board in Singapore. During this four-week training course the participants were introduced to different services offered in the library, oriented around “End Note”, and were also given hands-on experience on how to prepare modules on information literacy, library orientation, new techniques and approach in performing internet search and handling information questions. One librarian from India spent one month at the National Academic Library of Kazakhstan where he was trained in IT, electronic resources and library services.

Scholarships to a course in Information literacy and ICT Applications

There were six scholarship students (4 women and 2 men coming from Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines) who attended the four-week course in Information Literacy and IT held in Wellington, New Zealand at Victoria University from 17 November through 12 December 2008. The course covered the basic IL skills, needed by information profession in a variety of settings, as well as current and emerging IT applications in libraries. The participants received one-on-one training and were closely monitored at IT lab work. Database structure and IL project work as well as critical thinking and independent learning was handled. Based on the results of the students evaluation conducted at the end of the workshop, the conclusion is that the workshop provided a valuable learning experience. In addition to the teaching sessions the students visited ten libraries.

Other projects

Book lending point (Peru)

Books and journals are lent via library staff that are pushing book-filled grocery carts in two markets in Santiago de Surco, a poor community that is one of the biggest in Lima. The idea is to promote the book and reading, and before buying the books the public library conducted a survey to find out what kind of books the customers and vendors think would be interesting. Many vendors bring their children to the market during the workday. The Public Library is responsible for the management and the continuation of the project that started in the beginning of November.

Train young people in a poor community to gather and organise information about their community

A poor community in Otavalo, Ecuador is carrying out a project similar to a project completed in São Paulo last year. In December three facilitators/trainers from the earlier project in São Paulo held a month-long workshop in Otavalo initiating 40 young people into the process. The youth had

elaborated the questions to the inhabitants in the selected district (a favela with ca 10.000 inhabitants) and the trainers only helped to limit and arrange the questionnaire. The youngsters very rapidly made themselves familiar with both the theoretical and practical tools. They started to understand the computer and Internet as authentic working tools, to investigate and learn. Before the computer had only been used for chatting and recreation. A website has been set up starting with documents and data obtained at the workshop, which has been appreciated by both the Mayor and the town council. The result will be published in a book that will be distributed in Ecuador and within the Latin American Section of IFLA. Casa de la Juventud, Otavalo and Posada del Pensamiento Borges, Quito contributed with 10.000 USD.

Distance Education in Asia and Oceania (291)

Librarians, library and information science educators, teaching staff and others who are interested in continuing their education, but cannot be away from home, can benefit from the databases offering distance education in Library and Information Science. They can use the Databases as resources for accessing information about LIS distance experts in Asia and Oceania. Information and resources are shared among institutions and educators for the benefit of the LIS community and the community as a whole as the level of education is increasing. This was a two-year project.

Training course in DAISY production.

This training course was planned to take place in November 2007. However, due to change of staff it was only possible to carry out one part of the project, the training courses in production of tactile picture books in due time.

The DAISY Production training was carried out May 5-9 2008 in Johannesburg and Pretoria, South Africa. A preparatory seminar was held February 6 in Johannesburg, with 35 people. Several of these attendants also attended the one-week training course.

The training course successfully transferred DAISY production technology to 27 participants. For 13 blind persons a special course was given 10-11 May. They were also present May 5-9. As the trainees came from different libraries, disability organizations, rehab organizations and schools and universities the skills are well disseminated in South Africa. Necessary software, which is the key to further production and improvement of skills was provided by the DAISY Consortium. As an outcome a version of "Resource Manual for Disability and HIV/AIDS Training" is produced in DAISY format. According to the plan further workshops will be held. A formalized structure for DAISY development is under way and translations of software in several South African languages are planned; a Zulu version is presently carried out.