

Subject: GRANT OF IFLA AWARD

It is honor and pleasure for me to share the account of IFLA Grant and 13th Inter-Lending & Document Supply Conference (ILDS) 2013. ILDS is held in various parts of the world every two years. Last 12th IFLA ILDS 2011 held in Chicago, United States of America. 13th IFLA ILDS 2013 held in Beijing, China from 16-18 October 2013 at Yingjie Exchange Center, Peking University. Yingjie Exchange Center is focal place for International conferences and meetings. The Center was donated to Peking University by Mr. Yingjie, a philanthropist and Hong Kong billionaire. Many heads of states has visited and attended meetings in the Center including Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani, Ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan. I availed this exciting opportunity through IFLA Grant and attended IFLA ILDS 2013, Beijing. I was lucky enough to receive IFLA Grant in this year which enabled me to attend the cited event which otherwise was not possible. The Conference provided me amazing opportunity to benefit from the experience and knowledge of Library Professionals from all over the world.

Resource sharing:

Global vision and local strategy was the theme of Current IDLS 2013. “The continuing development of technology and increasing use of electronic resources made this conference an exciting opportunity for the international communities to come together to discuss the quality services to users.” The Conference was hosted by IFLA and organized by National Library of China, Peking University Library, CALIS, NSTL, CASHL, CADAL and some other organizations.

Difficult decision:

To be or not to be at the Conference was difficult to decision. There were Eid Holidays in Pakistan. It is a major Muslim festival when animals are slaughtered or sacrificed for the sake of God and meat is distributed among poor and needy. Second reason of indecisiveness was that it took long time to receive IFLA Grant. I am very sincerely thankful to Mr. Pentti Vattulainen, Chair, IFLA Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section, Gene TAN, IFLA, regional office-Asia and Oceania and Lan Yap, National Library Board, Singapore, who encouraged me a lot to attend the Conference. There was compelling family love to celebrate moments of Eid with them at one hand and professional commitment to benefit from this international professional event at the other hand. At last professional commitment dominated and I booked air ticket in the last moments with hard efforts. I arrived in Beijing on 14th October 2013. My stay was arranged at Building No 09 Zhongguanyuan Global Village, Peking University which is a three star hotel. Global Village is village but with most modern facilities of city life. High rise buildings and sky scrapper cover all the area with boundary wall. These buildings are mainly three star and four star hotels that receive international delegates round the year. Other international academic and educational conferences were also going on simultaneously during IFLA ILDS 2013. We often met the delegates of other conferences during breakfast and lunches in Sunrise Restaurant at Building No 06 of Global Village.

Visit to Peking University:

There was Eid Day on 15th October in Beijing, as Muslims in Beijing celebrate Eid with Saudi Arabia. I decided to visit Peking University Library in the afternoon of 15th October after registration of the Conference. I was very excited to visit the Peking University Library where Chairman Mao Zedong, the founding father of Peoples Republic of China worked for two years. Chairman Mao’s father-in-law was teacher at Peking University at that time. He came to Peking and worked in Peking University

Library as a librarian. Therefore, the Peking University Library has symbolic significance in the history of modern China as well as for the world of Librarianship. The library's new building, comprising of 08 levels/floors, is beautiful blend of traditional Chinese architecture and modern trends. The Library is maintaining more than 5.6 million volumes/physical items apart from 1.5 million ancient Chinese items and 2 million digital items/databases. The Peking University Library consists of 30 department libraries, a medical school library and six affiliated hospital libraries. The Library also hosts Secretariat of many library networks/inter-lending Systems like Chinese Academic Library & Informal System (CALIS) and Chinese Academic Social Sciences & Humanities Library (CASHL). The reception desk took my passport and issued visitor's Card after receiving 03 Yuan fee. I took round the 08 levels of the Library and observed traditional Card Catalog and OPAC side by side. All the floors of the Library were full with students and researchers. Researchers were also busy in research rooms. The collections have been displayed on all floors and it is open spaces building with almost no wall inside. The Library use Chinese Book Classification Scheme and to find English Speaking Staff is difficult. All the communication with staff working on various floors was with the help of students as some students know English very well. Of course, Visit to Peking University Library was one of the memorable events of my life. I returned from Library to Hotel in the evening after observing the services of one of leading research library in China. Thanks to God Almighty and friends at IFLA for providing me this opportunity.

The 13th IFLA Inter-Lending & Document Supply Conference:

13th IFLA, ILDS 2013 began on 16th October at 9:00 AM in Yingjie Exchange Center, Peking University, Beijing. Pentti Vattulainen, Chair, IFLA Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section, Davei Wei, Vice Director, National Library of China and Zhipan Wu, Director, CALIS Administrative Center presented the Welcome remarks. Formal proceedings of the Conference started at 10:30 AM after Coffee Break. The Conference attracted more than 154 registered participants from 20 countries of the world. Delegates from National Library of China, Pakistan, Laos PDR, Norway, Finland, Australia, Newzeland and National Science Library, National Science & Technology Library of China and German National Library of Science & Technology also participated in the Conference. Such conferences are organized in various parts of the world in order to provide more opportunities of participation to the people living in those particular regions. It was same to the IFLA, ILDS 2013 also as 107 registered participants from China alone attended the Conference. There were two participants from Hong Kong and 04 from rest of the Asia. Tangible participation from USA, Canada, Australia, European Union and Newzeland was noted.

Papers Contributions and Main Topics:

Total 22 papers were accepted for the Conference. Region wise contribution of the Conference papers is as under:

Name of Country	No. of Papers Contributed
China	09
United States	05
Canada	02
European Union	03
Australia	01
South Africa	01
Saudi Arabia	01
Total	22

Institution wise Distribution of Chinese Papers is as under:

Name of Institution	No. of Papers
Peking University	03
National Library of China	02
Other Chinese universities	02
Shanghai Library	01
National Science & Technology Library	01
Total	09

International Papers during 03 days of the Conference covered a variety of subjects related to the main theme of the Conference. English was the working language of the Conference. However, summaries of the papers in Chinese language were also presented at the end of each paper in order to facilitate the Chinese participants. Some of the presentations were bi-lingual both in English and Chinese. Following were the significant topics discussed during the Conference:

- Library Consortia and Inter-lending Networks
- Opportunities and issues of Inter-lending/DD
- Digital Environment; Opportunities and issues regarding Inter-lending/DD
- E-books' collection development; Lending and Inter-lending
- User and use studies in respect of E-books and digital documents
- Evaluation of existing regional, national and international Inter-lending and Document Supply networks/systems
- Electronic Document Delivery Systems
- Copyright Laws' restrictions, Digital rights management systems and License agreements
- Proposals on new models of Inter-lending and Document Supply
- Open Access Publications
- New ISO Standard for ILL

ILL/DD Systems:

Various Inter-lending and Document supply networks came under discussion and paper presenters described the strengths, weaknesses, achievements and potentials of following existing networks and systems:

- OCLC World-share Interlibrary loan
- Subito (Document Delivery Service in Germany, Australia, Switzerland & China)
- Chinese Academic Library & Information System (CALIS)
- Chinese Academic Social Sciences & Humanities Library (CASHL)
- NILDE (Network for Interlibrary document exchange), Italy
- International ILL Service & Document Delivery Center (DDC) of National Library of China
- Article-reach Direct, USA
- Global ILL Framework (GIF), Japan
- TIB full text delivery Service, Germany
- South Africa Inter-lending & Resource Sharing network
- Beijing Academic Libraries Information System (BALIS)
- eDe National Science & Technology Library of China ILL/DD Service
- Shanghai Information Research Network (SIRN)

Visit to National Library of China:

Formal proceedings of the Conference ended on 18th October 2013 before lunch. Tour to various Chinese Libraries was organized by the management committee of the Conference. I preferred the tour to the National Library of China. The Library is located at Line 04 by Beijing subway system. A special subway station has been built by the side of main entrance to the old building of National Library. Two campuses of the National Library are located at one place, a new and old building. Third building is situated some where else in downtown. National Library of China is the largest National Library in Asia and fifth largest library in the world. It maintains more than 27 million items. Its old building was being renovated at the time of our visit and we were able to visit the new building only. The new building designed by a German architect is a huge metal and glass structure. The inner side of the building is mostly open space and reading spaces are visible from top to the bottom or vice versa. The building presents a very modern look and all the floors are connected with each other by electric stairs/elevators. Our conversation with the protocol officer of the Library was through the translator. Majority of the staff at National Library of China does not understand English. Special features of the Library include large collections of old Chinese books and information commons. Information commons is a main hall where three hundred computers have been provided to the readers for online browsing and communications but they are not allowed to play games on the systems. Five hundred computers have been provided for the readers on all floors of the new building of the National Library. Self service photocopying machines has been provided for the readers on nominal rates. The membership is free of charge to all the Chinese people as well as foreigners. Foreigners can become the member of the National Library on presentation of their passport. Some of the online databases of the National Library can only be accessed after membership. I availed the opportunity and presented my passport to registration desk where cameras and all the necessary equipments are available and they handed me over a smart computerized membership card within a minute. The facilities, services, collections and spaces of National Library show the love of Chinese government and people for libraries and knowledge.

Tour to Great Wall of China:

Most of the participants left Beijing on 18th October in the evening or 19th October in the morning. A special trip to the Great Wall of China was arranged by the organizers on payment. We, a group of Conference participants mostly from foreign countries, started our journey towards the Great Wall at 9:30 AM on 19th October, 2013 by bus provided by the Peking University. China's cultural transition was visible during our journey by road through Beijing city. Chinese people are now enjoying the fruits of Cultural Revolution started in 1966. They have built their economy and China is the second largest economy in the world. A new cultural revolution has already been started to enhance the quality of life. Chinese have really done miracles and changed everything. Our bus was proceeding towards the Great Wall of China in the north of Beijing city. The construction of the Wall started in 220 B.C but most parts of the Wall were built in Ming Dynasty in 14th and 15th century. The wall is more than 6000 Km long and built from East to West with the Northern border of China. Maximum width of the Wall is 9.1 meters. The Wall is mainly fortification comparing of watch towers, army barracks and signaling points. The portion of Great Wall in North of Beijing is in good condition and well preserved. The Wall runs on the peaks of the mountains like serpent. The Wall runs very high in the mountains and it requires lot of courage, energy and strength to climb the high

portions of the Wall by steps built over the Wall for the purpose of climbing. A sentence written on the Wall in the beginning of the climbing stairs says; "Try to climb the Great Wall if you have brain or brain disease". Most of the participants tried to climb the Wall but majority of them could climb two portions or three portions of the Wall and none of them could reach the top which was also top of the hill. The restaurants and shops have also been built uphill for the tourists. Some photographers have special traditional costumes and armaments of old soldiers for tourists to get the photograph in those ancient army uniforms. We observed the various parts of the Great Wall with great interest and astonishment. We were wondering how the people some centuries in the past were able to build such a huge structure in the history of humanity. Great Wall of China is the largest building structure ever built by mankind through all ages. We enjoyed a buffet lunch at a golden palace restaurant on our way back to Beijing. Grand restaurant is also a beautiful traditional Chinese building from outside and a modern building from inside. At last my dream to be at Great Wall of China came true. I spent last day in visiting historical places in Beijing especially Summer Palace and greatly impressed by Chinese architecture and recent Chinese progress and developments. Trip to China contributed lot in my professional development. I shall be able to serve my fellow country people with more confidence and devotion.