

Council II and Closing Session

Friday, 27 August
Opening by the President
ROBERT WEDGEWORTH

I would like to welcome you all today to the second Council meeting and the Closing Session of the 59th IFLA Council and General Conference here in Barcelona. Since we have a very full agenda, I would now like to turn the floor over to Russell Bowden, First Vice-President of IFLA.

Motions and General Resolutions RUSSELL BOWDEN

I will not go into the various reasons for the general resolution on the destruction of libraries in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the destruction of the National and University Libraries, and the damage suffered by school, public, memorial, scientific and university libraries. The Executive Board has asked that the Helsinki Citizens Assembly be added to those formally sponsoring the resolution. May I ask first of all, before we go into the vote, if there are any points for discussion. If not, may I ask you to raise your voting cards to indicate that Council accepts the resolution. [Note: Council accepted the resolution, and requested that IFLA take action.]

General Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries in Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina

WHEREAS, The destruction of libraries in Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina continues since the summer of 1991, and;

WHEREAS, The National and University Library of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo was destroyed on August 26, 1992, and;

WHEREAS, School, public, memorial, scientific and university libraries have been damaged or completely destroyed in Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and;

WHEREAS, The Interuniversity Center's Library in Dubrovnik, its collection having been carefully developed by colleagues in American university libraries, has been destroyed, and;

WHEREAS, The destruction of Catholic churches, Muslim mosques, along with parish registers, monastic libraries and records in Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina undermines the archival infrastructure of the society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions condemns this violation of Article 19 of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations General Assembly; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions expresses its continuing support and solidarity with its professional colleagues in Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina in their efforts to restore access to information; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the United Nations, UNESCO, WHO, IFLA Association Members, Article 19 – International Centre on Censorship.

Sponsors:

American Library Association

Association for Research Libraries

Special Libraries Association

Medical Libraries Association

Russian Federation of Library Associations and Societies

Norwegian Library Association

Estonian Library Association

American Association of Law Libraries

Library Association of the United Kingdom

Estonian National Library

Yale University Library

Helsinki Citizens Assembly

Professional Evaluation of the Conference and
Presentation of the Professional Resolutions

DAVID W.G. CLEMENTS

I would like to briefly review the professional work of this 59th Council and General Conference of IFLA held here in Barcelona, based on observation and discussion. The development of the professional content of the IFLA Conference is still evolving, as we strive to improve its scope and quality, and at the same time be receptive to new ideas. I will not repeat the points made in my report of the work of the Professional Board over the last two years, presented at the first Council session. The varied programmes of the professional sessions which we have enjoyed this week represent the core of the professional work, the efforts of the officers of IFLA's Divisions, Sections and Round Tables as well as the Core Programme staff. Some 50 sessions with 177 papers, as well as 15 workshops, poster sessions on the Core Programmes and Regional Offices, were arranged. These were an excellent opportunity to focus on professional issues, and to stimulate the involvement of participants. Once again there were two contributed papers sessions, which met with marked success, involving presenters who do not, or are unable to, be present at IFLA Conferences regularly. Some 70 papers were submitted by candidates from 50 countries, and from these the