



Newsletter

of the Latin America and Caribbean Section (IFLA/LAC)

Number 63 July - December 2013

**IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Lyon, France
2014**

Launch of IFLA Trends Report in Spanish

**IFLA contributions at Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Bali,
Indonesia**

**Participation of the IFLA International Leadership Programme
in the IFLA 2013 Presidential Meeting in Singapore**



Section for Latin America and the Caribbean IFLA/LAC

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Newsletter IFLA/LAC

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Newsletter IFLA/LAC Number 63 (June-December 2013). The online edition is published in June and December each year by the IFLA Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is the leading medium of communication among IFLA regional members. ISSN: 1022-9868. It is compiled, edited and produced in UNAM Institute of Research on Library and Information Sciences, Mexico.

The opinions expressed herein are the authors', and do not necessarily reflect the position of the IFLA/LAC Regional Office. Please share your ideas, experiences, contributions and suggestions with the Regional Office.

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EDITORIAL

In this number of the Newsletter IFLA/LAC we share with our readers the academic and professional information that the members of the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee consider to be the most relevant issuing from our member countries in the second half of 2013.

Many professional challenges have been met and surpassed. Several international acknowledgments have been garnered, thereby enhancing the image of our region at world forums. It is my privilege to congratulate all those whose personal and professional achievements contribute to our professional guild.

Number 63 of the Newsletter IFLA/LAC features international events and the experiences of participants in the 79th General Assembly and World Library and Information Congress held in Singapore; while also looking at regional events and other local IFLA activities.

I am pleased to announce the release of the IFLA Trends Report in Spanish and, more recently, in Norwegian. I am sure it is everyone's hope that translation of this report to other languages will help bring about an open, frank discussion of ideas in accord with our socio-cultural context.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all of the members for their efforts and especially to special our Central America responsible Karla Rodríguez Salas. This number also includes reports from IFLA/BSLA coordinator Fiona Bradley and Loida García-Febo, who serves on the IFLA Governing Board.

The enthusiasm we show will strengthen us as a region.

Jaime Ríos Ortega,
**Manager of the IFLA Regional Office
for Latin America and the Caribbean**

IFLA HQ

2014 World Library and Information Congress in Lyon

In her closing remarks at WLIC in Helsinki, Finland, IFLA President Ingrid Parent officially announced that Lyon, France, would host the 2014 World Library and Information Congress.

The City of Lyon was chosen because it is one of the most dynamic, culturally rich cities of Europe. Please do not miss out on the opportunity to attend this important IFLA event to be held August 16-22, 2014. For more information, visit: <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80>

IFLA signed on to a key international document on human rights and electronic surveillance

IFLA was present at the signing of the International Principles on The Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance. These principles are the result of a long process of negotiations involving Privacy International, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Access, Human Right Watch, Reporters without Borders and the Association for Progressive Communication.

There are thirteen principles focused on the regulation of government surveillance of telecommunications: These are: Legality, Legitimacy of Objective, Need, Appropriateness, Proportion, Jurisdiction, Due Process, Notification of Users, Transparency, Public Oversight, Integrity of Telecommunications and Sub-Systems, Guarantees for International Cooperation and Safeguards against Improper Access.

<https://es.necessaryandproportionate.org/text>

Launch of IFLA Trends Report in Spanish

IFLA Initiative No. 5 on Multilingualism provides the authorization for the Spanish- Language Translation Program, which was entrusted to the IFLA/LAC Regional Office.

Among the results of this program is the release of the Spanish-language version of the IFLA Trends Report (<http://trends.ifla.org>), whose aim is to motivate the Spanish-speaking librarian community to participate in the discussion of five trends.

To view and download the Perspectives Documents in English, Spanish and Norwegian, visit the official website at: <http://trends.ifla.org/insights-document>.

IFLA Contributions at the Internet Governance Forum in Bali, Indonesia

IFLA contributed actively in this year's Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held in Bali, Indonesia October 22-25, 2013.

IFLA participated with the conferences: "Internet copyright policy: Multiple stakeholders or multiple sides?" presented by Stuart Hamilton. Other IFLA presentations included: "Creation of internet content and information access"; Network neutrality: from architecture to standards"; "Legal matter and rights of disabled and indigenous persons"; Network neutrality: from architecture to standards"; and "IGF results: recommendations for a global strategy to enhance inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Information Society." The second session of the meeting enjoyed the presentation titled: "Dynamic union for public access to libraries," led by Stuart Hamilton.

<http://www.ifla.org/node/8118>

IFLA welcomes US Court decision on legality of Google Books digitization

As an organization committed to the principle of freedom of access to information, and the belief that equitable access to information is vital to the educational and cultural well-being of communities, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) welcomes the decision of the US District Court with regards to the legality of the Google Books project. Last week, Judge Chin ruled that the digitisation of university library collections by Google was a fair use under US copyright law. In his ruling, Judge Chin observed:

"It advances the progress of the arts and sciences, while maintaining respectful consideration for the rights of authors and other creative individuals, and without adversely impacting the rights of copyright holders."

It is this balance between the rights of users and owners that IFLA is seeking to achieve for libraries internationally. IFLA is concerned that the US District Court's decision reflects a widening digital divide between what libraries are able to accomplish in the United States, as compared with the rest of the world. IFLA represents more than 1500 library associations and institutions in over 150 countries, many of whom are operating under a patchwork of restrictive copyright provisions ill-suited for the digital environment. IFLA maintains that access to digital library collections of the scale and nature of the Google Books project can be an unprecedented source for the advancement of learning and human development, and that this access should be universal.

<http://www.ifla.org/node/8177>

IFLA provides new avenues for its members to participate in Webinars

The IFLA Standing Committees for Professional Development and On-the-Job Education, and the Special Interest Group for Entry-Level Professionals, in conjunction with the American Library Association, are offering new avenues for IFLA members to participate in online webinars. Over the last two years, quarterly webinars have been a big success, with online seminars led by IFLA President Sinikka Sipilä, Singapore National Library Head Librarian Gene Tan, ALA Head of the Office of Intellectual Freedom Barbara Jones, and IFLA/CLM President Victoria Owen. These webinars were attended by entry-level librarians, representatives of library associations, teachers of library science, politicians and practicing librarians, who discussed such topics as videogames in libraries, international librarianship, ongoing education for librarians, academic exchanges and libraries as cultural entities.

The collaborative effort behind these webinars was coordinated by CPDWL member Loida García-Febo, co-founder of NPSIG, who also sits on the IFLA Board of Governors. Her team in this project included: Ulrike Lang and Sylvia Piggott of CPDWL, Sebastian Wilke of NPSIG and the ALA Office of International relations. For more information, contact: loidagarciafebo@gmail.com

ALP News 2013

IFLA's Action for Development through Libraries programme (ALP) aims to strengthen the ability of the library and information sector to advocate for equitable access to information and resilient, sustainable library communities. ALP works in the following areas: Building the capacity of national and regional library associations (Building

Strong Library Associations Programme) Developing leaders who can effectively represent the wider library sector in the international arena, and within IFLA (IFLA International Leaders Programme) Advocating for access to information and libraries in the post-2015 development agenda

Fiona Bradley

Building Strong Library Associations Programme to be expanded: regional convenings in 2014

IFLA's successful Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) programme will be expanded through a series of convenings and projects at the regional level in Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean from 2014. The BSLA programme consists of a training package and case studies on library association development; mentoring and advice on forming partnerships; an online platform for interactive learning and materials; and impact assessment. Between 2010 and 2012 IFLA delivered the BSLA programme in 6 countries (Botswana, Cameroon, Lebanon, Lithuania, Peru, Ukraine) and BSLA-related activities that reached a further 30 countries across the world.

A report on the impact of the programme was published in 2012 and can be downloaded from: <http://www.ifla.org/BSLA/impact>

Over the next three years until 2016, IFLA will build on the success of the programme and deliver convenings at the regional level where participants will be encouraged to think strategically about needs across the region, and in their own countries.

Africa Convening: Kumasi, Ghana, February 2014

The Africa Library and Information Association, Ghana Library Association and KNUST will host the Africa convening from 11-14 February 2014 in Kumasi, Ghana. The convening follows the IFLA Africa Section standing committee's midterm meeting.

Latin America and Caribbean Convening: São Paulo, Brazil, March 2014
Brazilian Federation of Associations of Librarians, Scientists of the Information and Institutions (FEBAB) and Universidade de São Paulo will host the LAC convening in March 2014, in São Paulo, Brazil. The convening will take place before a celebration of the LAC section's 40th anniversary, and the LAC section standing committee's midterm meeting.

Asia and Oceania Convening: Jakarta, Indonesia, March 2014. The National Library of Indonesia will host the Asia and Oceania convening in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2014.

Each convening will include workshops, practical activities and project planning. Materials will be delivered from the BSLA programme, as well as IFLA's advocacy initiatives. The convening will be a very interactive meeting involving presentations, group work, discussions, and practical activities to take back to national associations to implement at the national or regional level.

During the convening, associations will identify their own needs for further activities and development, identify needs in the region, and form action plans for implementation. Participants will assess their association's and the region's priorities and understand opportunities for follow-up activities and project funding.

Participating associations will play different roles during the convening - sharing

experiences and strategies with others, and benefiting from an opportunity to learn from other associations in their region. Up to 10 associations will be selected to participate in the convening. At least two people will be selected from each association.

Follow-up activities and project funding

After the convenings, participating associations will be invited to apply for project funding. These projects could include support to:

Implement BSLA workshops and activities at existing events eg national and regional library association conferences;

Deliver projects in-country, such as a series of BSLA workshops and activities;

Implement IFLA advocacy projects or policies;

Undertake projects bringing together a smaller number of associations in the region to form alliances or partnerships in pursuit of advocacy goals.

Associations will have several opportunities to apply for project funds between 2014-2016, as needs and priorities evolve.

Expected outcomes

To build a strong library sector that benefits society, associations need a strong foundation in representation, governance, organisational development and strategy. The long-term goal of the programme is to build the foundation for library associations to assist their work in representing the interests of library users, telling the story of libraries and gaining policymaker support and partnership.

The convening and follow-up activities will:
Reinforce inter-country networks and expertise to support development in the regions;

Increase understanding and adoption of

IFLA policies and manifestos to support high quality library and information services;

Promote strong, credible associations that effectively represent the sector through improved leadership, governance, partnerships and membership;

Provide a foundation for sustained development and advocacy.

More information about the Building Strong Library Associations programme, and activities from 2014-2015, is available on the IFLA website: <http://www.ifla.org/bsla>

Fiona Bradley

Libraries and the post 2015 development agenda: Access to information is central to development

As the United Nations reflects on the future of global development and the post-2015 agenda, access to information must be recognised as critical to supporting governments to achieve development goals, and enabling citizens to make informed decisions to improve their own lives. IFLA believes that high-quality library and information services help guarantee that access.

Through UN agency sessions, the WSIS+10 review process, and Member State consultations, IFLA is engaged with its members, civil society and the development community to advocate for access to information to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. IFLA ALP is leading this work in consultation with other IFLA units and national representatives.

The post-2015 framework will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and set the agenda for development for at least the next decade. The responsibility to reduce poverty, exclusion and inequality, build accountable public institutions,

and achieve sustainability will be shared by all countries.

As all libraries actively support development, all libraries have a stake in the agenda

Libraries and access to information:

Enable governments and civil society to achieve development goals: Libraries are transparent, accountable institutions that support government programmes and provide services that help government, civil society and business to better understand citizens' information needs;

Support citizens to make informed decisions: Libraries provide equitable access to information, and expert guidance to effectively use the world's knowledge. Librarians contribute to the reduction of poverty, exclusion and inequality by helping citizens develop skills to effectively seek, access, and use information in all forms.

Every library and librarian supports development

IFLA encourages all library associations, institutions and librarians to demonstrate the contribution that access to information and libraries make to achieving development as outlined in the IFLA *Statement on Libraries and Development* <http://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-statement-on-libraries-and-development> by:

Advocating for, and delivering, library and information services relevant to a library's local environment that help citizens to be educated, informed and included;

Monitoring and contributing to the post-2015 agenda utilising briefings and support materials to be provided by IFLA,

and;
Supporting national and local frameworks that achieve development goals and help governments to understand citizens' information needs.

Fiona Bradley

REGIONAL NEWS

IFLA/LAC contributions in the 79th World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), Singapore 2014

The IFLA/LAC Section attended the regional caucuses for Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean in the 79th WLIC held in Singapore August 18-20, 2013.

The session led by IFLA/LAC was titled: “Building the future in Latin America and the Caribbean: local priorities and global opportunities.” The conference enjoyed the services of simultaneous translation into the official IFLA languages. The session also included researchers reading their papers.

Source: <http://blogs.ifla.org/lac/2013/08/actividades-de-la-seccion-lac-en-la-79a-conferencia-de-la-ifla-en-singapur/>

Incoming Standing Committee of the IFLA/LAC Section

During the second meeting of the Standing Committee of the IFLA/LAC Section in WLIC, the incoming members of the 2013-2015 Standing Committee were officially announced.

The new members are as follows: Víctor Aguirre Negro (Uruguay), Silvia Cecilia Anselmi (Argentina), Margarita Bellas Vilariño (Cuba), Angela María Monteiro Bettencourt (Brasil), Octavio Castillo Sánchez (Panamá), Marisela Castro Moreno (México), Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira (Brazil), Olinda Gómez Morán (El Salvador), Elmelinda Lara (Trinidad and Tobago),

Jesús Lau (Mexico), Bárbara Lazo Rodríguez (Cuba), Hortensia Lobato Reyes (Mexico), Amada Marcos Blásquez (Spain), Alejandra Martínez del Prado (Mexico), Belén Martínez (España), Silvia Prada Forero (Colombia), Emilce Noemi Sena Correa (Paraguay), Ruth Helena Vallejo (Colombia), Nancy Vanegas Cuevas (Colombia) and Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra (Brazil). Karla Rodríguez Salas (Costa Rica) will serve as corresponding members; and IFLA/LAC Regional Office Manager Jaime Ríos Ortega (México) was announced as member in an advisory role.

Source: <http://blogs.ifla.org/lac/2013/09/nuevo-comite-permanente-de-la-seccion-lac/>

Highlights of the of the 2013 Singapore WLIC

María Elena Dorta-Duque Ortíz, director of scientific information of the Raúl Roa García Institute of Higher Learning in International Relations participated in the 79th IFLA General Assembly and Conference, presenting the poster: “Modernization of the Cuban National Medical Library,” designed by Bárbara Lazo Rodríguez of the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee, Carlos Mario Concepción Báez and María Elena Dorta – Duque Ortíz.

The Cuban representative attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of the IFLA/LAC Section, who in conjunction with Lynne M. Rudasill collaborated in the publication on digital libraries containing papers from Argentina, Cuba, Spain and the United States, all of which were presented in the IFLA satellite meeting held in Cuba in 2011. This bi-lingual publication is an example of the contribution of IFLA/LAC and the application of its key initiatives

regarding open access and multilingualism in the design of information sources.

Bárbara C. Lazo Rodríguez

The IFLA International Program of Associate Leaders and the Presidential Meeting in Singapore 2013

George Octavio Ruiz Vaca MS participated in the Presidential Meeting held on August 22 with colleagues from Asia, Africa and Europe, offering an overview of the IFLA Open Access and Leadership Programme and the challenges to be met in order to implement it in the region. His overview pointed out that Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico have considerable open access resources, which support scientific communication in the region.

Regarding promotion, the presentation identified Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and El Salvador as countries that participated actively in the Open Access Week, organizing conferences, workshops, and round tables on Open Access.

Ruiz concluded that Open Access is gaining increasing relevance in the region, which is enhancing sharing and dissemination of information resources among the region's growing scientific community.

Argentina

11th Digital Academic Library Sessions

Called to order under the theme "Knowledge management in the digital context," the 11th University Digital Library Sessions was held November 7 and 8 in the network of libraries Red

Amicus – Network of Private University Libraries, in conjunction with the host library, The Rosario Central Library of the Catholic University of Argentina.

The objective of these sessions is to promote and aid the development of digital libraries in universities and other academic settings.

To learn more about the program, visit: <http://bit.ly/Hs6ClD>

Silvia Cecilia Anselmi

The National Library Argentina is named "Doctor Mariano Moreno"

Pursuant to Act 26.807 promulgated by the Congress of the Nation on November 28, 2012, and recently published in the Official Gazette, the National Library of Argentina was officially named to honor its founder Doctor Mariano Moreno, who founded the library in 1810.

Source: Press Office of the Presidency of Argentina.

Master of Library and Information Science of the University of Buenos Aires

The University of Buenos Aires has recently approved the implementation of a master's degree program in Library and Information Science to be delivered jointly by the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters and the National Library of the Republic. Enrollment is open from October to December 2013, and the program is slated for launch in 2014.

The master's degree program arising from the signing of the convention between the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters and the

National Library of Argentina is the first of its kind to enjoy the resources of said library.

For more information: <http://www.uba.ar/posgrados/noticia.php?id=190>

Silvia Cecilia Anselmi

Librarians' Day Celebration

The Day of the Librarian ceremony was presided over by Dr. Horacio González, director of the National Library, accompanied by ABGRA President Graciela Ayos, National Library Sub-Director Elsa Barber, RECIARIA President Nilda Fernández and ABGRA Adjunct Secretary Araceli García Acosta.

Dr. Quiroga opened the ceremony with some remarks, taking the occasion to praise Graciela Ayos, Araceli García Acosta and Nilda Fernández. Prizes were awarded in the following categories:

Highest grade point average of graduates of library science schools nationwide.

Innovative projects in Argentine libraries.

Seven libraries received recognition, the most outstanding being:

Outstanding professional trajectories
Argentinian Librarian of the Year

The ceremony was followed by a cocktail reception to celebrate the Librarians' Day in Argentina in the Jorge Luis Borges Hall of the National Library of Argentina on Thursday, September 12, 2013.

Source: http://www.abgra.org.ar/DiaBibliotecario_2013.htm

11th University Digital Library Sessions

Called to order under the theme "Knowledge management in the digital context," the 11th University Digital Library Sessions was held No-

vember 7 and 8 in the National University of Villa Maria, Cordoba.

The following institutions participated in the organization of these sessions: Red Amicus (a private university library network), Argentine University of Business (UADE), Belgrano University, University of Business and Social Sciences (UCES), Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina; and the libraries of the Faculties of Exact and Veterinary Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires, the Information and Libraries School of Austral Patagonia, Santa Cruz; the Central Library of the National University of Villa Maria and the Central Library of the Rosario Catholic University of Argentina.

Source: <http://webarchivo.unvm.edu.ar/index.php?mod=JBDU&acc=categoria&id=89>

Brazil

BSLA workshop in Brazil

The FEBAB organized a BSLA workshop and the Federal Librarianship Counsel (CFB) in the framework of the 25th Brazilian Librarianship, Documentation and Information Sciences Congress, imparted by Elizabet de Carvalho and Elisete Melo.

On this occasion, the workshop was delivered in an abridged version. The workshop is informed by a strategic, coordinated vision for sustainable development of library associations and boards. The module "Supporting your librarian association" was also imparted with an emphasis in the areas of communication, leadership and strategic relations.

The presence of IFLA President Ingrid Parent in the second part of the seminar was important and motivating for the participants, and it will contribute to strengthening library associations in Brazil. The sem-

inar allowed Parent to meet informally with leaders of libraries in Brazil and get to know the professionalism of these institutions.



Report: Elizabet de Carvalho,
IFLA/ALP/BSLA Trainer
Source: Official Blog of IFLA/LAC
Photos: Silvia Cecilia Anselmi

25th Brazilian Librarianship, Documentation and Information Sciences Congress

The 25th Brazilian Librarianship, Documentation and Information Sciences Congress was held July 7-10 in Florianopolis.

The event was attended by 1489 persons and 450 participants associated with the

fair and exposition from Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, México and several other countries.

A highlight of the event was the presence of IFLA President Dr. Ingrid Parent, who participated in the Promotion Workshop imparted by Brazilian library association leaders. Sigrid Weiss, president of the IFLA/LAC Section, delivered the keynote address to open the sessions on July 7.

The guiding theme of the congress was: “Libraries, Information and Users: Transformative approached for Library and Information Sciences.”

For more information on the event, visit the following sites: <http://xxvcbbd.febab.org.br/>
www.slideshare.net/febab
<http://www.facebook.com/febab.federacao>

Source: IFLA/LAC blog

Photos: Sigrid Weiss Dutra and Silvia Cecilia Anselmi



Colombia

First territorial meetings of school-based libraries in Colombia

The National Reading and Writing Plan (“Reading is my story”) organized the first territorial meetings of school-based libraries in several cities nationwide on September 2 and November 8.

Under the auspices of the Secretariat of Education, the first territorial meetings of school-base libraries were organized in diverse cities, providing a forum for learning about the experiences of school-based libraries in each region and the actions taken to strengthen reading and writing in their respective schools.

Ruth Helena Vallejo

Costa Rica

2nd Congress of Librarians of Costa Rica: new technology serving Information Units

This event is targeted at the wide librarian community and undergraduate students. Presenters/expositors: Ana Coralia (Story teller), Edgardo Vargas, José Pérez Abellán (Academic Librarian, Murcia University, Spain), Federico Sancho (IICA), Hazel Hernández (Academic Librarian), Héctor Chinchilla (Motivator), Lidiette Quirós (Academic Librarian), Vanessa Cohen, Vinicio Piedra (National Digital Press).

The congress was held June 6-7 for the purpose of strengthening ITC and its use in information services by means of advisory sessions led by specialists and participants sharing experiences.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

E-book and e-readers in libraries

This event invited academic librarians from across the country on August 19 in the Mark Twain Library of the Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center. The activity was imparted by Holly Murtten as part of the outreach activities of the US Embassy Information Center. The activity was attended by members of the librarian community from the county’s central region, and through virtual links to allow participation of librarians in the provinces. The event allowed participants to reflect on and discuss diverse user-driven activities that can arise from this kind of service.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

14th International Book Fair of Costa Rica

The Fourteen International Book Fair of Costa Rica was held August 23-September 23. The event was organized by the Costa Rican Chamber of Books and the Ministry of Culture and Youth. Admission was free of charge.

The book fair aims to promote the following ideals:

The value of reading

Promotion of expressions of identity and cultural diversity

Motivating people to read and purchase books

Strengthening the national book publishing and distribution network

The fair also enjoyed the participation of Mexico as a special guest. Attendees were able to choose from more than 200 activities held at four sites, which brought together 40 thousand books and 50 international guests.

“We thought about all age groups, all possible ways of approaching literature and all discourses to underpin visual, audiovisual and multimedia narratives.” (14th International Book Fair of 2013).

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Community readers and narrators project

The objective of this project is to strengthen the abilities of librarians and elementary and secondary school teachers to create educational spaces to promote reading.

The project is slated to last 12 months, and will be held in the public libraries of Liberia, Nicoya, Guadalupe (San José) and Limón. The 42-hour course consists of four workshop modules focused on enlivening reading through oral narration. The project also includes 12 reading festivals in diverse public libraries of the National Library System (SINABI).

Karla Rodríguez Salas

International Meeting for Exchanging Experiences and Reflecting on Library Science Education

Marking the 40th anniversary of the National University, the School of Library Science, Documentation and Information organized a meeting of librarians September 3-4, 2013, in the Clodomiro Picado Auditorium, Campus Omar Dengo. The purpose of the activity focused on the creating spaces for exchanging experiences in library science education and identifying best practices.

The event enjoyed the participation of the School of Library Science, Documentation and Information of the National University of Costa Rica, the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain), the University of Antioquia (Colombia), and University of Zulia (Venezuela) and the UNAM Institute of Library and Information Science and Research (IIBI).

The following thematic headings were discussed in the meeting:

- Epistemology of library science
- Professional profiles and competencies in library science
- Socio-cultural activation of library science
- The place of library science in society

Students, academics and researchers from private and public universities participated in the event, including graduates, professionals and representatives of library associations.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Conversation on the origin of the curriculum of the School of Library and Information Sciences

The conversation was joined by former directors and students of the School of Library and Information Sciences. The objective of the event was to share experiences entailed in consolidating the school's degree program. The activity was held on May 22.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Inaugural lesson of Cycle II, 2013: “Competence focused training of library science professionals”

The School of Library and Information Sciences of the University of Costa Rica hosted the inaugural lesson titled: “Competence focused training of library science professionals” on August 23 in the Multipurpose Hall of the university’s Pacific Campus.

The purpose of the conference was focused on informing incoming students to the degree program and the general public about the process of developing and implementing the new curriculum focused on competencies. Professor Magda Cecilia Sandí of the School of Library and Information Sciences led the lesson.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Conference: The interconnection of institutional data bases with open access repositories

Organized by the Vice Rectory of Research, the conference delivered by Dr. Elías Sanz Casado was held August 5, 2013, and enjoyed the participation of students, users, teachers and researchers from the diverse campuses.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Management and optimization of web applications in information centres

This training targeted librarians and documentation professionals for the purpose of providing knowledge on the management and administration of web

applications for the purpose of attracting library users. The topics covered were as follows:

Web applications (sources).

Interaction with users. How to achieve it?

Web applications of users, uses. (Coode-ta, My pearlrees, popplet, My story-maker, zooburst, storybird, Go animate, animoto, webnode)

Prezi program (management, uses, prezi presentations).

Glogster program (uses and execution of tasks).

Karla Rodríguez Salas

25th National Archivists Congress

The 25th National Archivists Congress was held July 22-24, 2013, under the guiding theme: “The archivist’s challenge: electronic management pursuant to standards.”

The event enjoyed the participation prestigious local and international experts, who shared their knowledge and experience with those in attendance. The entry fee to the congress was \$240.00 USD. The following are some of the topics covered in the congress: the importance of new technology to efficient management; the challenge of documents in electronic formats; human rights and the information society; legislation and jurisprudence regarding electronic documents; and policies for official formats of digitally signed electronic documents. A workshop on standards 30300/30301 was also offered.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Cuba

Annual meeting of directors of provincial public libraries

Organized by a group of librarians in charge of receiving the directors of provincial public libraries, the event was held July 17-21 in the City of Santa Clara. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the problem existing in the National Library System, such as deteriorating infrastructure and furnishings. Other topics covered were flight of personnel from the library science profession; examination and approval of digitization policy solutions; lack of space to house growing collections, and the problems entailed in contributing to the ECURED collaborative encyclopedia.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Celebration of the National Library and Librarians' Day

To mark Library and Librarians' Day, the Cuban Association of Librarians hosted an event in the theater hall of the Jose Marti National Library of Cuba, dedicated to the 220th anniversary of the founding of the Library of the Economic Society of Friends of the Country and the 180th anniversary of the founding of the Manzanos Public Library. The celebration also honored librarians Tomás Fernández Robaina and Yolanda Aymerich Romaní, each for their 50 years of service to the National Library of Cuba. Additionally, the ASCUBI Prizes and the Antonio Bachiler Seal were awarded to several librarians from diverse libraries in recognition of their outstanding service and contributions to the field of library science in Cuba.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Library Science Meeting 2014

The Cuban Association of Librarians and the Jose Marti National Library of Cuba are calling for papers, speakers and round tables for the Library Science Meeting to be held February 18-21, 2014, in the National Library of Cuba within the framework of the 23rd International Book Fair of Havana, 2014. The meeting will focus on the topic: "Information, Knowledge and Society."

The following topic areas will be explored in the event:

Information products and services in today's society

Management of information and knowledge in library institutions

Library history and theory

Informational literacy

Open access to information and knowledge

Library and community

Preservation and conservation of information

Papers must meet the thematic parameters of the event and should be properly identified with name(s) and surname(s) of author(s), title, key words, institution represented, city, country, and email and telephone numbers. Submissions shall not exceed 15 pages on standard letter-size paper (8½" X 11"), using Arial 12 with 1.5 spaces between lines and drafted in Word 2003 or 2007. An abstract of no more than 200 words shall also be provided. Speakers shall have 15 minutes to read their papers. Submissions must be post-marked by December 10, 2013, after which no further submissions shall be accepted. During the first two weeks of January 2014, the acceptances will be announced. Members are required to pay 50 pesos and non-members 70.

Those interested in submitting papers should submit their work to Margarita Bellas and José Luis Rojas at mbellas@bnjm.cu and jose.rojas@infomed.sld.cu

Those persons needing an invitation letter in order to secure leave may request it from the President of the Organizing Committee at: mbellas@bnjm.cu or mbellas@infomed.sld.cu

For additional information, please contact MSc. Margarita Bellas Vilarino, president of the organizing committee at: mbellas@bnjm.cu or mbellas@infomed.sld.cu

5th National Reading Promotion Event

The Management Group of the National Reading Program and the Cuban Library Association (AS-CUBI) are calling for papers for the 5th National Reading Program to held in the City of Ciego Avila in May 2014.

Papers to be read will come under one of two commission headings: Theoretical Papers and Practical Experiences.

The following are some topic suggestions: Promotion of reading; a means of promoting library collections; the effectiveness of reading promotion activities; methods and means for promoting reading among persons with disabilities; promotion of reading aimed a diverse reader categories; training of reading promoters; technology used for reading promotion; reading promotion and mass media; reading promotion among disadvantaged populations; and reading promotion techniques.

The sign up period ends on February 1, 2014, and papers must be received by email on or before April 1. All submissions shall become part of the Special National Reading Fund. A panel of outstanding specialists shall award prizes to the most deserving works in each commission.

Submit your questions, papers and abstracts to: mbellas@bnjm.cu or mbellas@infomed.sld.cu or eddy@bnjm.cu

Margarita Bellas Vilarino

What is the National Medical Sciences Information Center (INFOMED)?

The National Medical Sciences Information Center (CNICM) was launched in Cuba in 1965 and is known internationally as INFOMED, the coordinating center in the country of the National Medical Science Information Center, consisting of 747 libraries and information centers of diverse levels, is located largely in hospitals and health clinics.

The structure of INFOMED - CNICM consists of sub-directorates, which includes the National Medical Library, Special Information Services, Medical Sciences Publishing, and Information Services for Technology, Teaching and Research. It also maintains a close working relationship with the Latin American and Caribbean Health Information System headquartered in Brazil (also known by its Portuguese-language acronym BIREME for *Regional Medical Library*), with which it collaborates in diverse regional projects aimed at developing a search engine of biographical data bases, such as LiLaCS and the collective catalogue of journal publications SeCS.

Subsequently, it joined in the project to build a Virtual Health Library, providing open access for users to the titles on health sciences in Cuba by means of the CUMED online access data base and other plans.

To learn more about these information sources, visit the Cuban Health Portal.



<http://www.sld.cu>,
<http://bvscuba.sld.cu/>
<http://iah.bmn.sld.cu/cgi-bin/wxis.exe/iah/?i s i s s c r i p t = i a h / i a h . x i s & l a n g = E & b a s e = c u m e d>

Bárbara C. Lazo Rodríguez

Eight years as institutional member of IFLA

During the proceedings of 2006 IFLA WLIC, we took on the responsibility of coordinating the activities associated with enrolling the National Medical Sciences Information Center as an institutional member of IFLA. This duty has been met for the last eight years and has brought many advantages to the Center.

From that time forward, the Center has enjoyed the right to participate on the technical committees for *Library of Health and Biosciences* and *Information Technologies*.

Additionally as member of the Latin America and Caribbean Section, our institution has over the last ten years attended congresses and participated in elections of IFLA executive officers. The Center has also contributed to the IFLA agenda and enjoys enrollment discounts for annual congresses.

Currently, two members of the Center, Bárbara Caridad Lazo Rodríguez and Ileana Regla Alfonso Sánchez, serve respectively on the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee and the Library of Health and Biosciences Committee for 2011-2015.

Bárbara C. Lazo Rodríguez

13th International Information Congress

The 13th International Information Congress, "Info 2014", will be held in Havana, Cuba, April 14-18. The event is organized by the Institute of Scientific and Technological Information (IDICT) of Cuba and the Convention Palace of Havana. The event will be held under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA), the UNESCO Regional Office in Havana, the Cuban Academy of Science, the Cuban Ministry of Informatics and Communications

(MIC), the Cuban Society of Information Science (SOCICT) and the Cuban Library Association (ASCUBI).

The main areas of focus include information services, open access to information, information literacy, the professional challenge of satisfying society's information needs, information and knowledge management in libraries, archives and other information organization; quantitative and qualitative aspects of science and technology, science and technology indicators; and the challenge of implementing standards for Open Government and info-technology.

For additional information, direct email to Congress organizer at: info@idict.cu

Visit the INFO Congress web page for additional information at: <http://www.congreso-info.com/>

Bárbara C. Lazo Rodríguez

Re-inauguration of the Cuban National Medical Library

After 36 months of remodeling and modernization work, the Cuban National Medical Library was reopened.

The inauguration ceremony was led by the Minister of Public Health Dr. Roberto T. Morales Ojeda and other Ministry officials and special guests.

In his remarks, Dr. Morales Ojeda emphasized the quality of the remodeling work and the repercussions of the modernization in both research and teaching endeavors carried forward by professionals devoted to improving the health of the Cuban people and others worldwide.

The ceremony was presided over by the Cuban Public Health Minister, who acknowledged all the selfless work and dedication invested in the remodeling of the National Medical Library by Jorge Andrés Sucasas Palomino, Rafael Sanabria Espinosa, Carlos Mario Concepción Báez, Cristobal Nestor Famada, Ro-



berto Caraballo González, Gastón Cazañas Sánchez and Bárbara Lazo Rodríguez, who was the library director from 1994 to 2012.

Bárbara C. Lazo Rodríguez

El Salvador

Conversation on Libraries and Digital Books in the US Embassy Information Resources Center (IRC)

Marking Salvadoran Librarians' Day on May 24, we were invited by Don Manlio Argueta, Director of the National Library of El Salvador, to a conversation on digital publishing standards. The event was attended by 40 persons, including representatives of the El Salvadoran Secretary of Culture, the country's libraries, governmental agencies and universities.

The IRC has continued to provide training in the *eLibraryUSA*, a set of open access academic data bases maintained by the US Department of State. The *eLibraryUSA*

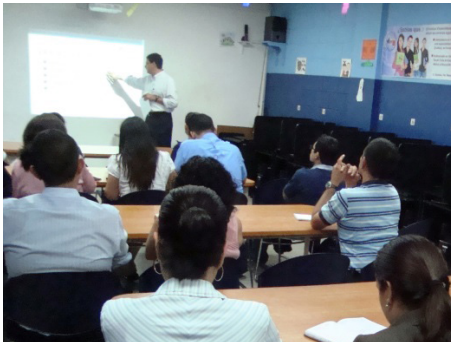
provides access to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Academic OneFile*, *EBSCO Business Premier*, *GALE Virtual Reference*, *Global Issues in Context*, *National Geographic Virtual Library*, *Smithsonian Magazine* and many others. Teachers and librarians of the following universities attended the training: Don Bosco, Centro Americana, Universidad de El Salvador, Monseñor Romero, Andrés Bello, Francisco Gavidia, ITCA, etc. Personnel from the Ministry of Education (MINED) and the Pan-American Health Organization also attended.



Olinda Gómez

Workshop on Web 2.0 Technologies in the US Embassy Information Resources Center (IRC)

The IRC has continued to provide training in the Web 2.0 Technologies, offering workshops on May 10, August 15, 22 and 28, September 26 and October 24. The workshops included instruction in Slideshare, Prezi, Twitter, Facebook, Google Drive, and other digital tools for supporting academic activities. Librarians, information technicians and teachers attended the workshops.



Olinda Gómez

The Global Library: information access here and now

This activity was organized by the Department of Letters of the University of El Salvador as part of the Day of the Librarian in El Salvador. The conference held on May 24 was presented by Sra. Sonia Amaya de López, and was targeted at current students, graduates, librarians and teachers.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

24th Salvadoran Librarians Culture Week 2013

To mark the Day of the Librarian, the Salvadoran Library Association organized a culture week May 20-26 under the theme “New challenges: let’s move forward to digital transformation.” The event was dedicated to Mrs. Carmen Martínez de Blanco. Diverse conferences, workshops, conversations and other activities were held during the week, all of which were aimed at strengthening the professional training of librarians. The topics addressed during the week included:

Libraries and the challenges of multi-resources, by Aracely de Hernández.

Research and higher education, by Ana María Glower de Alvarado.

Open access to technical and scientific literature in UES, by Héctor Chacón.

Introduction to RDA and MARC 21, by Héctor Chacón and María Rosario Hernández.

Learning about easy reading for persons with reading difficulties.

Presentation: “The role of the Salvadoran standards agency and its link to libraries” by Yanira Colindres.

ALFIN--Information literacy: the Nicaraguan promotion experience.

Research information consolidation program, by Rut Velia Gómez.

Use of SIAB 3.0 and presentation of the new multi-device system and Smart-C platform, by Alfredo Martínez.

How to publish an e-book, by Carlos Colindres.

Collaborating and linking with the world: creativity and innovation.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Workshop on digital repositories in the El Salvadoran University Libraries Consortium

The digital repositories workshop was part of the ongoing training organized by the Salvadoran University Libraries Consortium (CBUES). The objective of the workshop is to provide basic knowledge about technological and technical issues entailed in setting up digital repositories. The workshop was held May 20-23 and consisted of 15 class hour. It was attended by those in charge of managing and filing documents in the El Salvadoran Science and Culture Digital Repository (REDICCES).

The workshop concluded on Wednesday, June 5, with a session led by Dr. Cristobal Urbano of the Barcelona University Faculty of Librarianship with the aid of Montserrat Aguasca, who linked in by videoconference from Barcelona.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Conference: Open access to science and repositories

The CBUES held the conference titled: "Open access to science and repositories." The central objective of the activity was to provide librarians information on open access, the benefits of scientific development and the importance of depositing research studies in institutional repositories.

The topics addressed in the conference are the following:

- Introduction to open access to science
- Scientific communication
- Repositories
- The REDICCES Repository

The conference was delivered by Dr. Ernest Abadal and Dr. Cristóbal Urbano, dean and professor, respectively, of the Faculty of Librarianship of the University of Barcelona.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Spain

Digital Library Management: 2013 IBEREX training program for Latin American professionals workings in cultural fields

The General Directorate of Fine Arts, Archives and Libraries, through its General Sub-Directorate of Library Coordination, has organized a course on digital library management targeted at professional librarians in Latin America. The month-long training lasted from September 15 to October 15, 2013. The IBEREX training program has a long and substantial history training young professionals.

Six hundred professionals from diverse Latin American countries have participated in this program. This year professional librarians from Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Uruguay were enrolled in the program.

This year's training focused on management and organization of digital libraries, their collections and reference and client services.

This third edition pursues the objective of teaching about the most important aspects entailed in creating and managing a digital library, by means of illustrative examples that help trainees grasp development and launch processes. For additional information, visit:

<http://www.mcu.es/bibliotecas/CE/Cooperacion/ProgFormacion/ProgFormacionber/ProgFormacionber2013.html>

Belén Martínez

NAPLE member libraries celebrate Sister Libraries Day

Public libraries of diverse European countries that participate in NAPLE celebrated Sister Libraries Day, led by the Municipal Library of Piekary Slaskie in Poland, which has the most libraries in the sisterhood. Each library designed a commemorative postcard and led diverse activities for users, including a balloon release from each of the participating libraries.

For more information, visit: <http://sisterlibrariesnaple.wordpress.com/nsl-day>

The General Sub-Directorate of Library Coordination of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport that has presided over the NAPLE Forum (National Authorities of Public Libraries of Europe) since 2008, is also the contact institution for Spanish libraries. The program is targeted at public libraries in any of the NAPLE member countries that wish to find a sister library with which to cooperate. NAPLE currently operates in Portugal, Scotland, Lithuania, Belgium, Finland, Croatia, Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Rumania, Slovenia and Spain.

To request an application or to get information on participating libraries, visit: <http://sisterlibrariesnaple.wordpress.com>

Spanish public libraries interested in participating should fill out an application and send it to the General Sub-Directorate of Library Coordination. The application is available on the project blog: NAPLE Sister Libraries: <http://sisterlibrariesnaple.wordpress.com> and is to be sent to: nadle.sisterlibraries@gmail.com

*Belén Martínez y
Susana Alegre Landaburu*

Guatemala

National Library Science Congress in the University of San Carlos of Guatemala

The stated purpose of this congress is to approach problems and challenges facing the profession over the next five years.

This approach consists of three essential matters constituting the current panorama of library science development in Guatemala: These include: the draft bill on libraries; the national library system and improving human resources training.

The congress, held June 14-15, included conferences, round tables, and plenary sessions.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Haiti

Launch of fourth mobile library in central Haiti



The Organization of Libraries without Borders (BSF), with financial assistance from the European Union, the Digicel Foundation and the Franco-Carib-

bean Cooperation Institute, opened its fourth itinerant library on June 22. Known locally as "Biblio Taptap," these moving libraries aim to provide information access to both children and adults. Each mobile library unit is staffed by two facilitators.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Honduras

Course in Library Science sponsored by the Association of Librarians and Documentalists of Honduras (ABIDH)

In an effort to provide ongoing professional training to diverse library professionals, the Association of Librarians and Documentalists of Honduras is offering a diploma course in Library Science.

The course syllabus includes: practical fundamentals of Library Science; the development of print and digital media collections; organization of information and technical processes; AACR and RDA rules, Dewey decimal system; document indexing; bibliographic managers; information and library technologies; library management systems and data base development; online search strategies and information retrieval; and document preservation and restoration.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Conference on current library services

As part of the diploma coursework in Library Science, the ABIDH organized the "Conference on current library services," targeted at ABIDH member librarians. The event held June 15 was led by Dr. Kim Thompson.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

8th Library Science Sessions

The 2013 Library Science is an event organized by the ABIDH and held September 25-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event enjoyed the participation of the Honduran librarian community.

The event consisted of one day of conferences and two days devoted to workshops. Because of the diversity of librarians in attendance, the topics of focus were quite diverse. Attendees discussed information literacy, democratization of information, reading promotion and library software applications, such as Abies and Librarything.

Dr. Chalote Ford, Elizabeth Zwier (USA.), Francisco Alcaide (Spain), and Mario Zúniga, Cecilia García and Nítida Carranza from Honduras were special guests of the event.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Mexico

A library in its 140th year

The Second Ordinary Session of the Mexican Librarians Association (AMBAC), headquartered in the National Polytechnic Institute School of Commerce and Business Administration (ESCA-IPN), celebrated the 140th anniversary of its library on September 11.

The meeting opened with the introduction of the members of the AMBAC Board of Directors and authorities of the host institution.

Thereafter, guests listened to remarks offered by the AMBAC president and words from three special guest speakers: Benito Taibo, Cristina Pacheco and Fernanda Tapia, from Channel 11's cultural programming, who offered reflections on the topic: "Libraries, librarians and something more." The event was moderated by Miguel de la Cruz.



The event unfolded in a relaxed atmosphere. Those in attendance listened attentively to the many amusing anecdotes offered by the guest speakers about their memory of experiences with books, libraries and the important work of librarians.

The event concluded with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by ESCA Director Norma Cano Olea and AMBAC President Maria Asunción Mendoza Becerra.



With the presence of AMBAC, an institutional member of IFLA, the National Polytechnic Institute celebrated the 140th anniversary of the Library of the School of Commerce and Business Administration.

For more information on the event: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIFBUHzFHTU

Marisela Castro Moreno

National College of Librarians Award

The National College of Librarians of Mexico awarded acknowledgments for the best degree theses submitted up to December 2012 by graduates from the country's eight library science schools.

The Board of Directors for 2011–2013 presided over the solemn ceremony on Wednesday, October 23, 2013, in UNAM Mexico City.

As part of the ceremony, Dr. Héctor Guillermo Alfaro López read a paper titled: "History of a university ritual: the thesis as a tradition." Words of welcome were offered by Dr. César Augusto Ramírez Velázquez, Academic Dean of IIBI–UNAM. Other dignitaries on the presidium included, Dr. Ariel Alejandro Rodríguez García, President of CNB; Jorge Tlatelpa Meléndez of the Documentation Science Foundation and José Luis Almanza Morales of the UNAM General Directorate of Libraries.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the winners of the awards that, moreover, acknowledge the efforts of the eight Library Science schools in Mexico for the many benefits they provide to society.

2nd Symposium on Library and Information Sciences Research

Focused on the theme "Nature and method of library and information sciences research," the Second Colloquy

on Library and Information Sciences Research was held from September 30 to October 4, 2013, in the installations of the UNAM Institute of Library and Information Sciences.

Topic headings discussed included: Theoretical Thought on Library Science, led by Dr. Héctor Guillermo Alfaro López; Digital Library, coordinated by Dr. Georgina Araceli Torres Vargas and Dr. Ariel Alejandro Rodríguez García; Epistemology of Library Science and Information Studies, coordinated by Dr. Miguel Ángel Rendón Rojas; Information Policy, coordinated by Dr. Egbert J. Sánchez Vanderkast; Library Science Education, coordinated by Dr. Lina Escalona Ríos; and Information Use: processes and media, coordinated by Dr. Patricia Hernández Salazar.

This symposium is an invaluable opportunity to bring together specialists in the field of Library and Information Sciences to discuss advances in research and implementation of projects in countries such as Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Spain, Mexico and Peru.

45th Mexican Library Science Sessions

The Mexican Association of Library Science is happy to call for papers for the 45th Mexican Library Science Sessions, and annual event that has long served as a venue for the Mexican librarian community to share points of view. The event will include conferences, round tables, expositions and workshops.

The 2014 Library Science Sessions will be held in the City of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, a state located in northern Mexico, May 14-18, 2014, under the theme of "Information technologies: trends and impact of libraries."

International Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

International Internet Governance Forum launched discussions in Latin America with the inaugural event: "Dialogues on Internet Governance."

The objective of this local effort is to promote informed participation of Mexican agencies in both regional and international internet governance forums. In addition to strengthening the impact of diverse Mexican stakeholders in local, regional and international internet governance events, this Forum hopes to spark dialogue in Mexico with regard to these matters.

The principles guiding the "Dialogues on Internet Governance" are as follows:

Under parity of condition, equal participation of all stakeholders in the Mexican internet ecosystem.

Generation of balanced information for the audience, as a function of the respective roles of the interested parties and in accord with the principles of the Internet Governance Forum.

Inclusion of diverse positions in order to prevent hearing only one point of view.

Development of dialogue that recognizes the richness of ideas, which are not necessarily in agreement, and without pretending to reach final conclusions, consensus or make decisions.

Establishment of a neutral space, which invites participants to express views freely.

Diversity of funding mechanisms; prevent preponderance of any given sector that might cause collective apprehension with regard to the event; which is to say: an event of everyone and for everyone.

The first meeting to promote dialogue on internet governance was held in Mexico City November 4 and 5, 2013. The following persons participated in the event: Silvia Alanis and Víctor Martínez, officials of the

Mexican government; María Cristina Capelo and Lina Ornelas of Google; Rodrigo de la Parra of ICANN Latin America; Manuel Haces and Oscar Robles of NIC México; Octavio Islas, independent consultant; Alejandro Pisanty and León Felipe Sánchez of ISOC México; Julio Téllez, of INFOTEC; and Jorge Vega of Microsoft.

The thematic thrusts of discussions were: network security; cyber-crime, user privacy and confidence; neutrality, freedom of expression and information, interoperability and coexistence of technological alternative; access, digital inclusion, cultural diversity and competition; and intellectual property rights in the digital context.

Nicaragua

Course on use of social media for promoting libraries and online services

Imparted by Karla Bonilla Amador, this course was held under the auspices of the Nicaraguan Association of Librarians and Associated Professionals (ANIBIPA). It was held August 20 in the CENIDA computer hall of the National Agrarian University.

The topics covered included use of social media for promoting libraries and the design and presentation of information dissemination services using the USSU application. Admission to the course was C\$800.00, which included breakfast and certificate. .

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Panamá

7th International Congress on Academic and Research Libraries

Since the creation of the University Library System of Panama (SIBIUP), its international congress has attracted national and international participants who exchange experiences with the objective of contributing to solidifying library services and support professional development of librarians.

The topics of focus during the 7th International Congress of University Libraries and Research Units were as follows: Reading, the information society, information and communication technology, competitive intelligence, open access, information literacy, user access and use of information, resource description and analysis (RDA), repositories and metadata.

The Congress convened under the theme: “Reading and technology; tools development” and entailed conferences, workshops, presentations by Latin American specialists and other commissions. The event enjoyed private sector financial support from: EBSCO, Systems Link Int.; E-Technologies ProQuest and OCLC. Congress activities were broadcast in real time on the University of Panama web portal.

Using the congress venue, The University of Panama issued its “University of Panama Statement on Open Access,” ratifying its position in favor of open access to native academic information.

Octavio Castillo Sánchez

Open Access Conference in Panama

Within the activities of the 7th International Congress on University Libraries and Research Units

of the University of Panama, the keynote address titled: "Open Access in Latin America: challenges and opportunities for research and education" was presented. The address focused on the current situation and impact of scientific communication in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in countries that are unable to enjoy access to information. Additionally, the conference provided several regional and international information sources, such as Open Access directories and repositories, which support scientific communication and dissemination of Open Access initiatives worldwide. All of these matters are associated with the activities carried out by the IFLA Leadership Programme's Open Access Group

Jorge Octavio Ruíz Vaca

Paraguay

Day of the Paraguayan Librarian

The Executive Commission of the Association of Graduate Librarians of Paraguay (ABIGRAP) organized a solemn ceremony in honor of the Day of the Paraguayan Librarian. The event was held in the Main Hall of the Polytechnic Faculty of the National University of Asuncion on October 17, 2013.

The event opened with words by Dra. Emilce Sena Correa, president of ABIGRAP, who was followed by Polytechnic Faculty Dean Abel Bernal Castillo who awarded acknowledgments to professor Zayda Caballero Rodríguez and to the Polytechnic Faculty. An artistic performance and the panel discussion "The professional librarian in Paraguay" were also included in the day's activities.

An emotional toast was offered to conclude the commemoration of National Day of the Librarian.

Emilce Sena Correa

Puerto Rico

43th Annual ACURIL Conference 2013

The 43rd Annual ACURIL Conference was held in the San Juan Intercontinental Resort & Casino in Puerto Rico on 9-14 of June. The event was targeted at librarians, archivists, museum professionals, educators, diverse information professionals and students across the Caribbean region. The event consisted of plenary sessions, seminars and workshops, poster sessions and meetings. The conference addressed the following topic areas:

Topic area I: Knowledge territories under the commons paradigm: theory and practice. Definition and development of the concept. Types of commons in critical action and evaluation. Information commons, learning commons, research commons. What are the alternatives for knowledge territories?

Topic area I II: Physical space trends in knowledge territories, in terms of integration of the commons; observation of variants, imagine, question, explore, think, design, reflect, share ideas, review, create, respond, celebrate.

Topic area III: Drafting a strategic plan for developing and implementing a knowledge territory; the integration of a commons variant focused on evidence-based practice within the professional framework of information and knowledge.

Topic area IV: Professional development and training in the knowledge territory and the commons context.

Topic area V: Knowledge territories as commons hybrids: Redefinition of user needs, virtual and actual services, the strategic development and evaluation plan, focus and acknowledgment of diverse stakeholders, and preferences of

diverse communities in the 21st century in the Caribbean region.

Karla Rodríguez Salas

Trinidad y Tobago

General Ordinary Session of the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago

The Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) held its Ordinary General Meeting and Conference Reporting Session on Friday, October 11, 2013. The Conference Reporting session is normally held at the end of LATT's official business.



Devika Ramsingh delivered the first presentation which focused on "The role of libraries in the accreditation process." Ms. Lorraine Nero spoke about her experience while receiving training in the following areas: Records Management; Appraisal and Acquisition of Collections and Arrangement, Description and Exhibits. Lorraine Nero ended by stressing that information professionals need to be aware of the country's laws as they pertain to management of archives, especially Freedom of Information



laws designed to ensure ethical practices are followed while carrying out job duties.

Niala Dwarika-Bhagat, who was a first time attendee at the IFLA conference in Singapore, provided LATT members' a taste of Singapore in a clip of the opening ceremony. Her presentation: "Conferencing in the Lion City: IFLA WLIC 2013 through the eyes of a first timer," highlighted some of the sessions she attended. She commended the IFLA presenters and was impressed with the wealth of knowledge she garnered while networking. She also noted the numerous vendor booths, the many prizes and gifts which were available and emphasized the advantages of attending conferences to visit other libraries, network and share ideas with other librarians. Interestingly, she spoke about a library run only by volunteers; this left some of us thinking of the future.

Jiselle Alleyne, delivered a paper titled: "Re-positioning the Academic Library: Meeting the needs of adult learners through Educational Technologies and Transformative Learning development." The paper focused on the role of academic libraries in meeting the needs of adult learners.

"Librarianship at CARIFESTA" was the title of the presentation delivered by Gerda Holder, who attended CARIFESTA XI 2013 Culture for Development as the coordinator of Trinidad and Tobago's Literary Arts Component Contingent. Some felt that it was an unusual job for a librarian,

but when Gerada elaborated on her responsibilities it was immediately clear why her role was so important.



The final presentation was delivered by Danielle Fraser, the country's sole conservator, who manages the Conservation Laboratory at the National Library Building in the city's capital. She discussed the main issues addressed at the meeting, which had focused on contemporary conservation. Fraser spoke about learning to manage projects, which she believes is an important but undervalued skill. Having attended several sessions, she highlighted an interesting presentation titled *Flip, flap, and crack: the conservation of 400 Years of anatomical flap books*, which provided guidance on how to handle delicate, old materials. The meeting, much like a conference, also included panel discussions and exhibits.

To end the day, the members were treated to a demonstration by Sasha Cosmetics on the professional application of makeup. This activity was enthusiastically received, with members sharing their ideas and getting tips and guidelines for creating a professional look.

Elmelinda Lara

National Library Sessions

National Library Week: October 27 - November 1, 2013

Libraries at the Center of Learning, Community and Life

We are pleased to announce that National Library Week 2013 will be celebrated October 27 - November 1. This year's theme is: Libraries at the Center of Learning, Community and

Life. The **Celebrity Tale-A-Thon**, The National Library and Information System Authority's (NALIS) grand storytelling event, which kicks off the week-long celebration, was held on Sunday, 27 October, in the, National Library Building Amphitheatre, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, at 2:00 p.m. It was an afternoon of fun, entertainment and great stories.

Libraries throughout the network will host a number of programmes during the week. Some of the programs listed are: "Cyber Safety", "Science Corner", "Family Heirloom Clinic", "Jewelry Making", "Round d Library Tour", discussions, creative writing workshops, authors' visits and Divali celebrations. A list of the programs will be made available on the NALIS website (www.nalis.gov.tt).

National Library Week is hosted annually to increase awareness and support for libraries by increasing their visibility in a positive context; to communicate why libraries are both unique and valuable; and promote the positive image of all library staff

Amnesty

Starting on October 28, NALIS will waive fines on overdue books and DVDs. This waiver does not apply to damaged or lost items. The grace period will expire on 30.

Elmelinda Lara



