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IAALD: Forty Years of Progress

**Harald Haendler,
Antoinette Paris Powell**

Keywords: International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists; history

ABSTRACT: The International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) began as the dream of a German agricultural professor, Walther Gleisberg and an Austrian agricultural professor, Sigmund von Frauendorfer. In September 1955 a foundation meeting was held in Ghent, Belgium. Sixty delegates from thirteen countries attended the meeting and IAALD was born. A constitution was formulated by Walther Gleisberg and was approved unanimously with some slight modifications. F.E. Mohrhard (USA) was elected president, S. von Frauendorfer (Austria) was elected vice president; Th.P. Loosjes (The Netherlands) was elected treasurer; and H. Jenssen was elected secretary. In January 1956 the first issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin of IAALD* was published with D.H. Boalch as editor and 1000 copies were distributed worldwide. Over the past 40 years many people have served the organization and much has been accomplished. Nine World Congresses have been held with various themes, the *Quarterly Bulletin* is now in its 40th volume, two editions of a world directory have been published and a third is in press, *A Primer for Agricultural Libraries* was issued in two editions, and *Current Agricultural Serials* is a standard in many agricultural libraries. Today IAALD is still active and now focuses on training and the dissemination of agricultural information. IAALD continues to strive to meet the needs of its members as it moves toward the 21st century.

RÉSUMÉ: L'Association Internationales des Spécialistes de l'Information Agricole (IAALD) était une idée des professeurs en agronomie Walter Gleisberg d'Allemagne et Sigmund von Frauendorfer d'Autriche. En septembre 1955, une première réunion s'est tenue à Gand en Belgique qui a rassemblé soixante délégués provenant de treize pays; et c'est ainsi que l'IAALD est née. Une constitution a été élaborée par Walter Gleisberg, qui fut approuvée à l'unanimité après quelques amendements mineurs. F.E. Mohrhard (USA) fut élu Président, S. von Frauendorfer (Autriche) fut élu Vice-président, Th.P. Loosjes (Pays

Bas) fut élu Trésorier et H. Jenssen fut élu Secrétaire. En janvier 1956, le premier numéro du Bulletin Trimestriel de l'IAALD fut publié, avec comme éditeur D.H. Boalch; 1000 copies furent distribuées à travers le monde. Durant les 40 dernières années, de nombreuses personnes ont servi l'association et beaucoup a été réalisé. Neuf congrès mondiaux ont été tenus sur des thèmes variés. Le Bulletin Trimestriel est aujourd'hui à son 40ème volume, deux éditions d'un répertoire mondial ont été publiées et la troisième est sous presse. "A Primer for Agricultural Libraries" a été publié deux fois et "Current Agricultural Serials" est un manuel de base dans beaucoup de bibliothèques agricoles. Aujourd'hui l'IAALD est toujours actif et se concentre actuellement sur la formation et la diffusion de l'information agricole. Les efforts de l'IAALD continuent afin de satisfaire les besoins de ses membres, à l'aube du 21ème siècle.

RESUMEN: La Asociación Internacional de Especialistas en Información Agrícola (IAALD) comenzó como un sueño de un profesor alemán especializado en agricultura, Walther Gleisberg, y un profesor austriaco también especializado en agricultura, Sigmund von Frauendorfer. En septiembre de 1955, se celebró una reunión en Ghent, Bélgica, en la cual participaron 60 delegados de 13 países. En esa reunión se fundó IAALD. Walther Gleisberg redactó una constitución, que se aprobó por unanimidad con sólo leves modificaciones. F.E. Mohrhard (Estados Unidos) fue elegido presidente; S. von Frauendorfer (Austria) vicepresidente; Th. P. Loosjes (Holanda) tesorero; y H. Jensen secretario. En enero de 1956, se publicó el primer número del Boletín Trimestral de la IAALD, con D.H. Boalch como editora. Se distribuyeron 1000 copias a nivel mundial. Durante los últimos 40 años, muchas personas han servido a esta organización, y los logros han sido numerosos. Se han realizado nueve congresos a nivel mundial con diversos temas, el Boletín Trimestral está actualmente en su volumen número 40, se han publicado dos ediciones de un directorio mundial y una tercera edición está en imprenta, se publicaron dos ediciones de *Un Manual para Bibliotecas Agrícolas*, y *Publicaciones Agrícolas Seriales Actuales* es un estándar en muchas bibliotecas agrícolas. IAALD todavía está activa y actualmente enfatiza capacitación y difusión de información agrícola.

IAALD continúa esforzándose para satisfacer las necesidades de sus miembros a medida que avanza hacia el siglo 21.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG: Die Idee zur Gründung der International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) hatten zwei Professoren für Landwirtschaft, der Deutsche Walter Gleisberg und der Österreicher Sigmund von Frauendorfer. Im September 1955 fand in Gent (Belgien) eine Gründungsversammlung statt. Sechzig Delegierte aus dreizehn Ländern nahmen an der Versammlung teil. IAALD wurde geboren. Walter Gleisberg formulierte eine Satzung, die nach einigen kleineren Änderungen einstimmig angenommen wurde. Gewählt wurden zum Präsidenten F.E. Mohrhard (USA), zum Vicepräsidenten S. v. Frauendorfer (Österreich), zum Schatzmeister Th.P. Loosjes (Niederlande) und zum Schriftführer H. Jenssen. Im Januar 1956 erschien die erste Ausgabe des *Quarterly Bulletin of IAALD* mit D.H. Boalch als Herausgeber in 1.000 Exemplaren, die weltweit verteilt wurden. Während der vergangenen vierzig Jahre haben viele Menschen der Organisation gedient, und viel ist geleistet worden. Neun Weltkongresse zu verschiedenen Themen fanden statt. Das *Quarterly Bulletin* umfaßt jetzt vierzig Bände, zwei Ausgaben eines *World Directory* sind erschienen und eine dritte ist im Druck, ein *Primer for Agricultural Libraries* wurde in zwei Auflagen herausgegeben, und die *Current Agricultural Serials* sind heute ein Standardwerk in vielen landwirtschaftlichen Bibliotheken. Nach wie vor ist IAALD aktiv und setzt nunmehr seine Schwerpunkte auf die Aus- und Weiterbildung sowie die Verbreitung landwirtschaftlicher Informationen. IAALD setzt sein Bestreben fort, die Wünsche seiner Mitglieder im Hinblick auf das 21. Jahrhundert zufriedenzustellen.

About 60 delegates from thirteen different countries attended the birth [of IAALD], at Ghent, of the new organization whose purpose is to promote, internationally and nationally, agricultural library science and documentation, as well as professional interests of agricultural librarians and documentalists, the term 'agriculture' being interpreted in the widest sense, so as to include forestry, agricultural engineering,

veterinary sciences, fisheries, food and nutrition, agricultural and food industries, etc. (*Quarterly Bulletin of IAALD*, 2 (1):1.)

The Early Years

In the chaos after the Second World War—especially in Europe and naturally in Germany—several scientists felt that no progress could be achieved without an intensive and efficient exchange of scientific information. The political situation during that period had isolated the German scientists from their colleagues in other countries. As often in history, when the need is great, ways will be found to overcome the obstacles and pioneers appear to show the way out of the tribulation.

Among the foresighted scientists in the field of agriculture, was one man that had not only a vision of what should be done, but also the energy to correct the situation against all obstacles. This was Walther Gleisberg, a German agricultural professor.

He wrote several memoranda in order to convince ministries, administrations, and others to realize his ideas of promoting information transfer and exchange. He sought contacts with colleagues in other countries in order to establish an international organization for agricultural information. Through this process he found a staunch ally in his colleague, a former German, the Austrian agricultural professor Sigmund von Frauendorfer.

S. von Frauendorfer was born in Munich (Germany). He studied philosophy in Munich, later agricultural sciences in Hohenheim (near Stuttgart, Germany) where he earned his doctorate degree and worked as assistant professor. He then went to the United States to study library science at the University of Illinois, where he acquired his masters of arts. With this broad background von Frauendorfer was appointed as director of the library of the former International Institute for Agriculture in Rome, today the FAO Library, a position he held for sixteen years. After the war he was appointed as

professor for agricultural history in Vienna, Austria, and worked there as librarian. With this background he was an excellent champion of Gleisberg's ideas.

In spite of major difficulties, Gleisberg succeeded in preparing an international meeting at Frankfurt (Germany) in March 1955. Beside W. Gleisberg and S. von Frauendorfer, the meeting was attended by Th.P. Loosjes, the librarian of the agricultural college in Wageningen (Netherlands). Loosjes was another effective promoter of scientific information, who later wrote one of the first handbooks on documentation and played a key role in the further development of the newly established association. Other participants of the meeting were representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Norway, and FAO. Gleisberg, who was the host, refused to chair the meeting, "by historical reasons" as he said. Thus Dr. von Frauendorfer was elected as chairman. The language of the meeting was German.

The meeting decided to form a new organization, which not only should be a revival of the former International Committee of Agricultural Librarians but should include documentation as a new practice for efficient information provision. The new organization would be named "International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists" (IAALD). The participants agreed to look for contacts to other international organizations like FAO, IFLA, and UNESCO. Furthermore, D. Gleisberg was asked to prepare a constitution for IAALD. The group then outlined a program for the foundation meeting of IAALD, which took place in the same year.

The foundation meeting was held at Ghent, Belgium in September 1955. About sixty delegates from thirteen countries attended the meeting. IAALD was born as a "new organization, whose purpose is to promote, internationally and nationally, agricultural library science and documentation, as well as profes-

sional interests of agricultural librarians and documentalists". The constitution, formulated by W. Gleisberg, was approved unanimously with some slight modifications. The meeting declared itself as the first General Assembly of IAALD according to its constitution. The first official action of the General Assembly was the election of the members of the Executive Committee. Elected were F.E. Mohrhardt (USA) as president, S. von Frauendorfer (Austria) as vice-president, Th. P. Loosjes (Netherlands) as treasurer, H. Jenssen (FAO) as secretary, and D. H. Boalch (United Kingdom), L. Frykholm (Sweden), G. Genie (Belgium), W. Gleisberg (Germany), D. Kervegant (France), E. Zink (Brazil) as members. The General Assembly then discussed a working program for the new organization. Several working Committees were created, among them was a committee charged with preparing a periodical bulletin of the association, which evolved into the *Quarterly Bulletin*. The secretariat of IAALD was located at the FAO Library in Rome for the first five years.

One year later it could be stated that "IAALD has made considerable progress—more progress, at any rate, than the pessimists predicted". The membership had grown to 180 members from 35 countries. Well over one thousand copies of the first issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* were sent out to agricultural and kindred libraries throughout the world. The first meeting of the Executive Committee took place in Munich (Germany), where, among other things, the performance of the *Quarterly Bulletin* was discussed, and plans were formulated for the preparation of a "World Directory of Agricultural Libraries and Documentation Centres".

The IAALD World Congress and the General Assembly 1960, the first one after its foundation session, was held in Hohenheim (near Stuttgart, Germany). The Assembly was chaired by IAALD's vice-president S. von Frauendorfer. At the election of the new Executive Committee, F.E. Mohrhardt and S. von Frauendorfer were

confirmed as president and vice-president respectively, and Th. P. Loosjes as treasurer. D. Kervegant (France) was elected as second vice-president, D.H. Boalch (U.K.) as editor, and H.D. Griesau (Germany) as secretary, so the secretariat of IAALD was located in Germany for the next five years. The new secretary, Dr. Griesau was active in continuing Gleisberg's ideas for promoting the German agricultural documentation network and later worked as state secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

Five years later, 1965, IAALD for the first time found the way to another continent and the World Congress took place at Washington, D.C. The General Assembly re-elected F.E. Mohrhardt as president, elected Th. P. Loosjes as vice-president, and H.C. Hirst as secretary and treasurer.

IAALD continued to thrive and by 1960 the organization had 400 members from 53 countries. Working committees were established to further the objectives of the organization. These committees were the *Quarterly Bulletin*; agricultural bibliographies; classification; exchange of materials; professional and educational problems. The early years were not without their difficulties. There were problems with the secretariat and the inequitable distribution of the burden of work. Getting the working committees going was a slow process and in a history published in 1960, the author is concerned that members do not make full use of the facilities provided to them. (*Quarterly Bulletin of IAALD*, 5 (2):69) In spite of this complaint there was networking among early members that included exchanging ideas to solve problems. This was and continues to be one of the great strengths of IAALD.

Activities

The chief lines of work for the organization were outlined as follows:

- Production of a bulletin designed to disseminate information and to maintain contact between

members in the intervals between general assemblies.

- Work on agricultural bibliography.

- Study of classification problems.

- Intensify the exchange of publications.

- Examination of professional and educational questions.

These lines of work continue in some fashion 40 years later. The first *Quarterly Bulletin* was issued in

is the only communication they have with the organization.

Publications

In addition to the *Quarterly Bulletin*, IAALD has had an aggressive publication program. Its accomplishments in the publishing arena are many. A major accomplishment of the organization has been the publication of three editions of the *World Directory*. The first *World Directory* was a successor to a similar publication produced by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome and was supported with a grant from the John Deere Foundation. The *World Directory of Agricultural Libraries and Documentation Centres* was published in 1960 with a revision of the edition planned. This revision did not come about and the material collected was turned over to the European Community and was incorporated into the EC's *Directory of Agricultural Information Systems*. Twenty-five years later, at the VIIIth World Congress in Ottawa, a working group formed to produce another world directory. This working group, consisting of Carol Boast (now Robertson) of the University of Illinois, Rita Fisher of Washington State University, John Beecher of North Dakota State University, Julia Peterson of Carghill Information Center, and Jane Johnson of the University of Illinois, began the arduous task of pulling this work together. At the VIIIth World Congress in Budapest in 1990, *Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1990* was presented to Ernest Mann, President of IAALD. This directory was supported by CTA, Carghill, and the University of Illinois and all the profits from the sale were to be used for education and training. In 1995, at the IXth World Congress in Melbourne Australia, Rita Fisher and Carol Robertson presented Joe Howard, President of IAALD with a check for US\$45,000 to be used for IAALD Education and Training activities. A second edition of the *World Directory*, compiled by Jane Johnson,

Presidents of IAALD

1955-60

Foster Mohrhardt (USA)

1960-65

Foster Mohrhardt (USA)

1965-68

Foster Mohrhardt (USA)

1968-70

T.P. Loosjes (The Netherlands)

1970-75

Philippe Aries (France)

1975-80

Philippe Aries (France)

1980-85

Ernest Mann (UK)

1985-90

Ernest Mann (UK)

1990-95

Joseph Howard (USA)

1995-

Jan van der Burg
(The Netherlands)

January 1956, four months after the founding of the organization. The editorial office was set up in the Library of the Rothamsted Experiment Station and the publication was edited by D.H. Boalch, who held the position for 15 years. The *Quarterly Bulletin* is now in its 40th volume and continues to be a priority for IAALD. The bulletin continues to disseminate information and offers opportunities for agricultural information professionals to publish articles. It continues to be the major contact by IAALD with members between world congresses and for some members it

Rita Fisher, and Carol Robertson was published in late summer of 1995.

The funds from the *World Directory* were not the only support of education and training given by IAALD. In 1967, IAALD published *Primer for Agricultural Libraries* by Dorothy Parker, F.C. Hirst, Th.P. Loosjes and G. Koster. This primer laid out the basics in establishing and maintaining an agricultural collection and was made available to developing countries. The *Primer* sold well and a second edition edited by Olga Lendvay was published in 1980. IAALD continues its publication of useful guides with the initiation of a Training Aid Series in 1995.

In keeping with one of its chief lines of work, IAALD has been concerned with agricultural bibliography. To further this end, *Current Agricultural Serials* was published over the period of 1965-1967. This major work contained over 12,000 serials relating to Agriculture (excluding forestry and fisheries) and is a standard reference tool in agricultural libraries worldwide. IAALD also played a large role in *Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts*. This CABI publication has its roots in *World Agricultural Economics Abstracts* which was published under the auspices of IAALD and the general editorship of Sigmund von Frauendorfer. The first volume was issued in 1959 with funding from IAALD and the Council of Economic and Social Affairs of New York. This launched the publication that is still thriving today.

The study of classification has also been a focus of IAALD over the years. In the early days IAALD was involved in the work of the Universal Decimal System, today IAALD is an active participant in the development of the Universal Agricultural Thesaurus.

Education and Training

Education and Training continues to be a focus for IAALD and has been since the beginning. The themes of

the various world congresses reflect the professional issues of concern of the time. Various regional congresses addressed a specific issue and were held in different parts of the world and the *Primer for Agricultural Libraries* was designed to provide training in agricultural librarianship. In 1965, IAALD established a scholarship for travel to agricultural libraries. The scholarship was in the amount of US\$500 and was offered biennially beginning with 1965. The

In 1995, the first IAALD training aid was published to provide information on various topics. The first aid dealt with selecting library automation software and the second aid gave tips on indexing.

Congresses and Meetings

The IAALD World Congresses have been held all over the world and dealt with papers on various topics. The first world congress was held in Ghent, Belgium and concentrated on the organization and business of IAALD. The second world congress was held in Germany and focused on international cooperation. The third world congress was held in the USA and once again focused on cooperation worldwide. For the fourth world congress, IAALD moved to France and concentrated on acquisition of information. In 1975, IAALD moved back to North America and held its fifth world congress in Mexico City and the programming dealt with information networks. The sixth world congress was held in the Philippines and the theme was agricultural information to hasten development. Once again IAALD moved back to North America for the seventh world congress, this time to Ottawa, Canada. Information and food was the theme of that congress. The VIIIth world congress moved to Eastern Europe and delegates assembled in Budapest, Hungary to discuss information and the end user. Most recently, IAALD moved to the southern hemisphere for the IXth world congress and discussed communication of information at a distance. This congress was held in Melbourne, Australia.

In between world congresses IAALD has held various regional conferences. The first regional conference was held in Stuttgart-Hohenheim Germany and was a joint seminar with the Organization of European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) on agricultural documentation. In 1963, IAALD organized a regional congress in, Wye, England and concentrated on the information services in

Editors of IAALD

1956-60

D.H. Boalch (UK)

1960-65

D.H. Boalch (UK)

1965-70

D.H. Boalch (UK)

1970-75

Govert de Bruyn
(The Netherlands)

1975-77

Govert de Bruyn
(The Netherlands)

1977-80

Richard A. Farley (USA)

1980

Richard A. Farley (USA)

1980-85

Valerie Howe (UK)

1985-90

Susan Harris (Mexico; USA)

1990-

Antoinette Paris Powell (USA)

scholarship was to be used for traveling expenses in studying agricultural libraries in other countries and was to serve as a supplement for travel. A report on the journey was to be published in the *Quarterly Bulletin*. In 1990, with funding from the sale of the world directory, IAALD formed an Education and Training Committee to make recommendations on how to spend the money. The Committee took some time to become established but in 1994, under the leadership of Marie-Josée Jehl of the Netherlands, an IAALD workshop on networking was held in Sri Lanka.

IAALD Facts

Membership fees for IAALD in 1956 were 10SF (US\$2.50) for individual members, 50SF (US\$12.50) for Institutions.

The *World Directory of Agricultural Libraries and Documentation Centres* published in 1960 contained 2531 libraries from 100 countries and sold for US\$8.00 with a 25% trade discount and US\$2.50 to individual IAALD members.

Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1990 contained 3971 centers from 250 countries and sold for US\$120.

In addition to the *Quarterly Bulletin*, *IAALD News*, and *IAALD Lettre d'Information*, IAALD has published or supported 10 major publications.

IAALD has organized 9 World Congresses and 12 regional meetings, symposiums or workshops, an average of an event every 1.9 years.

IAALD has had only 6 presidents in 40 years making the average term of office 6.6 years.

IAALD has held meetings on 5 of the seven continents.

IAALD has seven honorary members: D. Kervégant (France); D.H. Boalch (UK); T.P. Loosjes (Netherlands); E.J. Mann (UK); F.C. Hirst (UK); M.T. Martinelli (Italy); and H. Haendler (Germany).

DR. HARALD HAENDLER is a graduate of the Agricultural College of Schleswig and the University of Kiel. He holds a subject speciality in animal breeding and livestock management. After holding various positions he became head of the Archives for Animal Feedstuffs at Hohenheim where he developed the Hohenheim Classification System for Animal Feedstuffs and built up the world renown Documentation Center for Animal Production. During his career Dr. Haendler contributed to the establishment of the International Network for Food Information (INFIC) and his work laid the foundation for the *International Feedstuffs Thesaurus* and the *Animal Production Thesaurus*. Dr. Haendler served on the executive committee of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and as a member of the Policy Committee of the International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS). He served as President of the Gesellschaft für Bibliothekswesen und Dokumentation des Landbaues (GBDL) and served as IAALD Senior Vice-President for 15 years, from 1970–1985. In 1985, IAALD honored Dr. Haendler for his many contributions to IAALD by making him an honorary member at the VIITH World Congress in Ottawa, Canada. Dr. Haendler retired as Director of the Dokumentationsstelle der Universität Hohenheim, Stuttgart in 1986. (Source: *Quarterly Bulletin of International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists* 32(2):125.)

ANTOINETTE PARIS POWELL is Director of the University of Kentucky Agricultural Library in Lexington, Kentucky, USA. Ms. Powell has a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Kentucky and has published articles on various topics over the past 20 years. She is currently editor of the *Quarterly Bulletin of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists*, a position she has held since 1990. Ms. Powell was recently elected president of the U.S. Agricultural Information Network and is an adjunct professor in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky.

Great Britain. In 1972, IAALD joined forces with the Gesellschaft für Bibliothekswesen und Dokumentation des Landbaues (GBDL) in Germany to do an "International Day in Cooperation with IAALD" at the GBDL Congress in June. In 1973, a European regional congress on progress and prospects was organized in the Netherlands and another European Regional Congress on modern systems and networks was held in Hamburg, Germany in 1978. In 1983, IAALD moved to the continent of Africa for an African regional conference on education and training in Nairobi, Kenya and then in 1988 to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for an Asian regional congress on Strategic issues. In 1991, IAALD turned its attention to technology and its associated problems and organized the IAALD Technology Symposia. The first was held in Washington, DC, USA in 1991 and then moved to Bonn, Germany in 1993. In 1992 an IAALD/Francophone Roundtable was held in Bordeaux, France and dealt with information transfer.

The proceedings from many of the various conferences have been published in some form. The papers of the sixth world congress were published by the Library of the University of the Philippines, those of the seventh world congress were published by the International Development Research Center and was published only on microfiche. The proceedings from the fifth and eighth world congresses were published by IAALD and the latter was published as an issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* to insure all members had access to information from the world congress. Some of the proceedings from the regional meetings were published as well. The papers from the African Regional Conference were published by the organizing group and selected papers from the Asian Regional Congress were published in the *Quarterly Bulletin*. All of the papers from the technology symposia were published in the *Quarterly Bulletin* with the financial help of CTA in the Netherlands and ZADI in Germany.

Struggles

That IAALD has survived for 40 years is a testament to those members who believe in the organization. As IAALD has no paid secretariat or publications staff, most of the work has been done voluntarily. The accomplishments and activities of the organization have been phenomenal but not without its struggles. From the early days, IAALD has struggled to build its membership base but keep its membership rates affordable. The membership grew steadily for a number of years but then leveled off between 500 and 600 members. Getting member input has been a problem and even in the early days, IAALD officers felt that members were not taking advantage of what they offered. IAALD has sought to be a multi-language organization but in 1990, realizing the cost of multiple languages, made English the official language. This was not done without dissension in the ranks and while English is the official language of the organization, IAALD continues to accommodate other languages. In 1992, the IAALD Francophone Roundtable was organized for the French speaking members of IAALD. The summaries of this conference were published in the *Quarterly Bulletin* in French. Abstracts to articles in the *Quarterly Bulletin* continue to be published in French, German, and Spanish and articles in these languages are also reviewed for publication in the *Quarterly Bulletin*. In 1994, the *IAALD Lettre d'Information*, a newsletter of the IAALD Francophone group began publication.

Also at the VIIIth World Congress, IAALD underwent a name change. The membership voted to change the name of the organization from the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists and became the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists. This was done to reflect the changing profession and to attract related professions. The acronym IAALD was retained. The members also ratified

IAALD World Congresses

- Ist World Congress on Founding of IAALD, Ghent, Belgium, 1955.
- IInd World Congress, Working Conference on International Cooperation in Agricultural Librarianship and Documentation 25-28 April 1960, Stuttgart, Germany.
- IIIrd World Congress on Worldwide Cooperation, 3rd-9th October 1965, Washington, D.C., USA
- IVth World Congress on Acquisition and Exploitation of Information in the Fields of Food and Agriculture, 20-25 April 1970, Paris, France.
- Vth World Congress on Information Networks, 14-18 April 1975, Mexico City, Mexico.
- VIth World Congress on Agricultural Information to Hasten Development, 3-7 March 1980, Manila, The Philippines.
- VIIth World Congress on Information for Food, 2-6 June 1985, Ottawa, Canada.
- VIIIth World Congress on Information and the End User, 28-31 May 1990, Budapest, Hungary.
- IXth World Congress on Communicating Agricultural Information in Remote Places, 23-26 January 1995, Melbourne, Australia.

IAALD Programs

- OEEC/IAALD Seminar on Agricultural Documentation, 20-23 April 1960, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany.
- European Regional Congress on Information Services in Great Britain, 3rd-9th July 1963, Wye, England.
- "International Day in Cooperation with IAALD" at the GBDL Congress, 9 June 1972, Berlin, Germany.
- European Regional Congress on Progress and Prospects in Agricultural Librarianship, 14-18 May 1973, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- European Regional Congress on Modern Systems and Networks on the Reliability of Information, 17-22 April 1978, Hamburg, Germany.
- African Regional Congress on Education and Training for Agricultural Library and Information Work, 7-12 March 1983, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Asian Regional Congress on Strategic Issues in Agricultural Information, 21-24 November 1988, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- North American Regional Congress (Symposium) on Advances in Information Technology, 16-20 September 1991, Beltsville, Maryland, USA.
- IAALD/Francophone Roundtable on Information Transfer in a World Economy, 20-24 January 1992, Bordeaux, France.
- IAALD/Francophone Roundtable, 26-30 July 1993, Rabat, Morocco.
- European Regional Congress (Symposium) on New Information Technologies in Agriculture, 10-12 November 1993, Bonn, Germany.
- IAALD Training Workshop to Support the Agricultural Information Network in Sri Lanka, 25-20 December 1994, Sri Lanka.

a new constitution. The present constitution was designed to reflect the changes in the profession but still continues much of the work done by Dr. Gleisburg.

In spite of the obstacles, IAALD is alive and well. At a planning session in Washington, DC in June 1995, a strategic plan was laid out for the organization for the next five years. The challenges are great but the energy is there for IAALD to accomplish its goals. The basic principles laid out by the founding fathers continues to be a driving force for the organization. IAALD continues to have an aggressive publication schedule, continues to be involved in issues dealing with agricultural bibliography and continues to examine professional and educational questions.

From its Germanic roots, IAALD has found its way to all parts of the world. IAALD was confronted with new situations, with new problems and new techniques of information processing and transfer. IAALD's World Conferences at different places—Paris, Mexico, Manila, Ottawa, Budapest, Melbourne—and several regional Conferences, can be regarded as milestones in a changing world of scientific information. It became clear that an efficient flow of information and the ability to receive agricultural and related information from all parts of the world within a short period of time is an essential prerequisite to solving the problems of nourishing a growing world population and to overcome hunger and misery of mankind. It is a great challenge to meet these tasks. IAALD was and is prepared to do this because fore-

IAALD Publications

Quarterly Bulletin of IAALD, 1956–
Sample issue of *World Agricultural Economics Abstracts* (now *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts*), 1959–
World Directory of Agricultural Libraries and Documentation Centres, 1960.
Current Agricultural Serials, 1965–67.
Primer for Agricultural Libraries, first edition, 1967
IAALD News, 1980–
Primer for Agricultural Libraries, second edition, 1980.
Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1990, 1990.
IAALD Lettre d'Information, 1994–
IAALD Training Aid, 1995–
Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1995, 1995.

sighted people acted at the right time in the right way. Today IAALD has many active and experienced members in all parts of the world, and it can be hoped that the future generations of the association will continue the tradition in the spirit of the pioneers by adapting to the changing information environment.

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