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INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LIBRARIANSHIP

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This past summer I participated in an international meeting, held in Paris, which should be of interest to the division members reading Sci-Tech News. The 55th IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) was held at the Palais des Congres on 19-26 August 1989. Many Americans were among the attendees, including Dorothy McGarry and Wilda Newman of the Science and Technology Division. I would like to describe briefly some of the papers and activities in order to encourage your participation at future IFLA meetings. IFLA will be meeting next summer in Stockholm (18-24 August 1990), the year after in Moscow (18-24 August 1991), and the year after that in New Delhi (30 August -5 September 1992). The theme of the Stockholm conference will be "Libraries - Information for Knowledge"; the theme for Moscow will be "Libraries and Culture: their Relationship" (with programs on high tech and "old-fashioned" forms of information to be shared with the Biological and Medical Sciences Section); and for New Delhi "Library and Information Policy Perspectives". If you are interested in attending the Stockholm conference, please write me for registration information.

I wore three hats at the IFLA conference this year: as the newly elected Secretary of the IFLA standing

committee, Section of Science and Technology Libraries; as SLA's Representative to that Section; and as a conference speaker of that Section. I really had my hands full trying to fit in all my "official" activities as well as sample other offerings as well. And this conference had a full calender of social activities as part of the registration fee: a gala soiree at the new Pyramide du Louvre, a reception for IFLA officers at the Hotel de Ville, a reception in the inner courtyard of the Bibliotheque Nationale (which the French librarians were astounded about as the BN is noted for its aloofness), and a fieldtrip to Giverny. One of the best aspects of attending IFLA conferences is getting to know other science and technology librarians around the world. For example, I was invited by another member of the Standing Committee, Francine Masson, out to the library of the Ecole Polytechnique in Palaiseau. At the time of my visit the library was holding an exposition of the works of Augustin-Louis Cauchy, a famous 19th century mathematician. The library even holds his and others' class notes from over 150 years ago!

The Standing Committee met on Saturday afternoon and Thursday morning. Members attending the committee meetings included 2 Americans (newly elected Jimmy Dickerson and myself), 3 French, 3 British, and 1 each from Estonia, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Canada, and West Germany. Dennis Shaw, Chair of the Standing Committee, is also President of IATUL (International Association of Science and Technology University Libraries) this year and he invited all Standing Committee

members to IATUL's meeting to discuss a project to be proposed to the European Commission (DGXIII) as part of its "Action Plan for European Libraries". This project would be the preparation of a machine-readable thesaurus of science and technology terms of the nine EEC member countries. Discussion ensued about the program for the 1990 Stockholm conference. The standing committee decided to focus on user education: science and technology libraries have led the way in providing information and we had already structured information so we were able to use automation most efficiently. Committee members suggested that we seek three speakers: a Swedish librarian to talk on education of the library user; a British librarian to talk on teaching of information gathering techniques; and a French librarian, Jean Michel, to talk on user education in the French Grandes Ecoles. It was further agreed that the standing committee would send out a questionnaire to all members of the section, seeking information on topics they would like discussed, projects to be undertaken, and if the members want the standing committee to act as a focus for strengthening the international aspects of sci-tech librarianship. An IATUL satellite meeting will focus on "Library Management and New Information Technologies" and take place on board ship between Stockholm and Turku, and thence at the Turku Academy of Science and Technology. (A similar satellite meeting will precede the 1991 Moscow conference and will be the Estonian State Library in Tallinn.)

Dennis Shaw reported that the Section of Science and Technology Libraries' "A World Survey of Availability of Theses in Science and Technology" was off to a good start.

Responses have been received from 27 of 53 representatives worldwide. The standing committee discussed the next phase of the project: many databases exist, but how can they be accessed; relationship to FID; comprehensiveness. Jimmy Dickerson (USA) and Christian Lupovici (France) were volunteered to compile the information which would be gathered by the national respondents.

As I indicated earlier, I gave a paper at this conference. The Science and Technology Libraries Section had three speakers address the conference theme, "Problems facing libraries resulting from the changing economic circumstances, whereby resources are disappearing and we are being asked to be more 'cost-effective'". (Just imagine how high-falutin' international bodies make subjects sound!) Our section always attracts a large audience so arrangements for simultaneous translations were made. The first speaker, Caroline Sakoun-Wiegandt (France), talked about "Cinquante ans de gestion documentaire au CNRS: du CDST a l'INIST. When I receive an English translation of her paper I will be glad to share it with you. I spoke next on "Alternatives to public funding of university science and technology libraries: the North American experience" and did I have trouble with the German translator! It seems it takes twice as long to say it in German as it does in English and the translator couldn't keep up with me. I was told later by friends that you really haven't experienced an international conference until you get the German translator mad at you! Afterwards, several university librarians from such diverse places as England, Norway and the Ivory Coast wanted to know more about using the campus and/or library's development office to aid sci-tech libraries. The third paper was by

Elin Tornudd (Finland) on "Document supply by science and technology libraries: Is there a role for international organizations?". At another session, speakers presented papers at the Information Technology Section which may be of interest to members of the Sci-Tech Division: "Needs for standards in office automation", by Axel Wiesner (France); "message handling systems and electronic data interchange: electronic messaging and their potential for libraries", by Leigh Swain (Canada); and "How office standards will interact to improve electronic library applications", Peter Barry (UK).

I hope I've given you a sense of what goes on at an IFLA conference. Please write if you would like more information. Elections will be held in another two years so begin planning now if you would like to become more involved in international librarianship.

FROM SLA HEADQUARTERS

Report on the Great Lakes Regional Conference

The Communication Crunch

October 1989, Ann Arbor Michigan
Special Libraries Association

"Become a shaper of the special libraries of the future!" With that challenge, Paulette Groen, Conference Co-Chair, opened the Great Lakes Regional Conference, Special Libraries Association on October 13, 1989, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Librarians and information professionals spent the next three days learning about what to expect during the years leading to 2010 and how they might prepare for the coming changes. The conference was an outstanding success -- 108 people registered, many from Michigan. Other states and

provinces represented were Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

In the first session, "Librarianship in 2010," we learned who are the groups who will affect change during the next 20 years, what trends we shall observe on the way to 2010 and the past and future functions of librarianship.

The first afternoon session was "The Future of the Automobile Industry". Next, during "Bridging the Gap: From Exception to Reality," we heard prescriptions for meeting the challenges of the future, an analysis of what is being done to educate librarians for the future, and an explanation of stress as a product of change.

The second day of the conference began with "Multitype Networking Experiences." A panel of librarians and information professionals from a variety of networking situations discussed the pros and cons of formal networks. All agreed, however, that personal networks were indispensable.

Several Special Libraries Association divisions presented programs. Biological Sciences' topics included molecular biology and gene sequence databases. STN International was on the program for Chemistry. Engineering conducted a standards roundtable. Library Management and Transportation Divisions worked together to cover public relations and information services in a large organization.

Metals/Materials' program was on automated information gathering for the future and Science-Technology demonstrated cross-disciplinary database searching.

W. David Penniman, Director, Library and Information Systems, AT&T Bell Laboratories, was the Alberta Brown Lecture Series speaker Saturday evening. His speech was entitled, "Leadership in the 1990s-For Libraries."