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Editorial

I write this editorial at a time of great change in the United Kingdom (UK) following the referendum vote to take the country out of the European Union. With all the negative overtones this has for the migration of communities and an insular approach to our behaviours, I think it is incumbent on our profession, now more than ever before, to demonstrate and encourage the benefits of a global library and information society. Our group, the International Library and Information Group (ILIG) of CILIP, has the stated aim of “bringing the global and international community together”. We truly welcome your thoughts on how we can continue to do that and enhance the sharing and exchange of ideas, practices and information amongst the world library and information community in a time of great change in the UK/worldwide. Do contact us or get involved by joining our Committee or by using one of the communication channels below with your ideas, thoughts and suggestions.

This issue of Focus has some excellent contributions of information sharing from; Laura Lay on her unconventional Scandinavian library tour on a boat; Susan Appleby (a new member of the ILIG Committee) on her attendance at the German Library Conference in Leipzig this year; from our Canadian “correspondent”, John Pateman on developing a needs-based library service using Marxist and Maslow theories; an interview with Janice Booth, the librarian of the historic Helena May Women’s Club in Hong Kong; and an appeal from the Ahmed Elmi, the National Librarian of the Somaliland National Library. Alice Tyler, our tireless Associate Editor and Web Editor, has produced part three of the Focus retrospective, covering the years 2000-2004.

Finally, as with the last issue I report, with great sadness, the death of Alan Hopkinson, a major contributor to the international library community who served on our ILIG Committee even after a stroke which left him confined to a wheelchair and with limited speech. There is an obituary for Alan in this issue, but I now welcome articles and contributions from librarians around the world who worked with or benefited from, Alan’s international work so that we may dedicate a future issue of Focus to him in honour of his work.

John Lake, Editor
An Unconventional Library Tour
by Laura Lay*

Early on Sunday 5 May 2013, we lifted anchor for the last time in Falmouth Harbour and set sail for the Baltic. We had built a small wooden sailing boat and have enjoyed living off-grid for several months of each summer since. In Spring 2016 we were still on the shores of the Baltic, although this period has also included some inspiring temporary library jobs in the United Kingdom (UK). As a librarian, I was interested to discover how they do things differently in Scandinavia - every landfall was an opportunity to check out a new public library.

This article is a journey around the library highlights of the cruise. Seaside towns and cities obviously dominate. Each was visited as a tourist and user, not with a guided or behind-the-scenes tour, so if you work in any of these wonderful libraries - apologies for inaccuracies…and Thank You!

**Kolding Bibliotek**
Kolding is on the East coast of the Jutland Peninsula in Denmark and was our first Danish library visit. Later we became familiar with the modernist Scandinavian aesthetic - all white and black with stylish Danish modern chairs arranged in little groups around the library. But this first time we really felt we had walked into an interiors magazine. Kolding library was built in 2006 and the building is combined with a hotel. I was taken with the stand-up circular information desks - especially as I had just worked in a library that was trying to persuade staff to leave the comfort of the traditional reference/circulation desk.

High atriums and open areas gave a great feeling of space but the book stock did not appear to have been reduced and (as in most Scandinavian libraries) there was a large magazine selection. The Radio Frequency Intelligent Data (RFID) book return sorter was behind a window; it was fun for kids and adults alike to watch their books magically finding their way to the right shelving trolley. I have since seen this ‘robot’ providing entertainment to children in several Danish libraries.

**Helsingør Bibliotek**
Helsingør remains my favourite library and I have been back twice since our first visit in the summer of 2013. Kulturværftet (The Culture Yard) consists of a glass structure seemingly suspended on the front of former warehouse buildings. The complex (from 2010) contains a concert hall/theatre, museum and cafe as well as the library. This drawing together of cultural facilities and activities under one roof is reasonably common in

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An Unconventional Library Tour

Moored in the Aland Islands
Scandinavia. It is the location, however which really wows the visitor. At the head of the redeveloped harbour area the library has views across to the Øresund to Sweden and of course to the famous castle (Hamlet's Elsinore). The library has made good use of the myriad spaces afforded by the construction and there are reading rooms and study rooms, quiet rooms and noisy balconies, all with superb views and funky furniture - creating genuine “living rooms” for the community. One rainy afternoon
An Unconventional Library Tour

For the population of the town. The library also hosts visiting art exhibitions integrated across all the floors. If you find yourself in Copenhagen I recommend the half-hour train ride to Helsingør.

Mariehamn Stadsbibliotek
Mariehamn is the capital of the Åland islands, an autonomous and Swedish-speaking region of Finland. The islands lie between Sweden and Finland in the Bay of Bothnia at around 60° North. We were very proud to have sailed all the way to the Åland islands but that’s not the only reason I am including this library! Although we visited on a blisteringly hot August in 2014, one can imagine that the light and beautiful library here is a welcome refuge in the long winter. Again this library, by British standards, was very big for the local population but the collection does also supply the local higher education institutions. The library has an Art Deco-looking exterior, a clean white interior and blue & yellow furniture, with curvy ceiling windows throwing in the light. It has a large flexible meeting/lecture/gig/exhibition area at the entrance, creating lots of space. When visiting libraries as a tourist, it is nice to experience a little of the local community through the exhibitions of local art, as we found both here and elsewhere.

Turun kaupunginkirjasto (Turku City Library)
Turku is a large medieval city in Southern Finland. I found the connection between the 100-year-old
library and new library (2007) really smoothly integrated. A magazine reading room connecting the two has luxurious classic furniture and a country hotel feel, while the new part of the library is incredibly stylish with a huge atrium, impressive stairwell and a very Finnish-looking pine interior. Throughout the diverse collections we found lots of reading material in English - graphic novels, newspapers, magazines, even sea charts!

**Almedalsbiblioteket, Visby**
Visby is the World Heritage hanseatic city on Sweden’s largest island, Gotland. The library is positioned by the Almedal park. We visited the week before Almedalen - an annual event when Swedish politicians from all parties, as well as lots of other people interested in politics, come to this park in Gotland to debate and discuss. The library is, as such, at the heart of this live democracy. It was raining when we visited and I instantly liked the homely feel with coats hung up in the entrance, children and their carers running about in their socks. However, the architecture is far from homely. A large cafe gives way to the library and both have a spectacular all glass wall from which you can enjoy the view of the very pretty walled city. From the outside you can see the skyline reflected in the glass. The stylish wooden furniture was very comfortable and I really liked the felted Gotland wool cushions.

**Flensborg Bibliotek**
I have mostly written about the design of the libraries we visited as that is what leaves the deepest impression when making a fleeting visit as a tourist. However, what is most characteristic
of Scandinavian libraries is probably their wealth of cultural and community activities. Apart from exhibitions, a tourist does not really see these activities and they can be difficult to access without the language. I am currently living in North Germany in an area that was once part of Denmark. Aside from the Danish schools, the Dansk Centralbibliotek for Sydslesvig (Danish Library for Schleswig-Holstein) positions itself as the central Danish cultural institution supporting the minority Danish population. The central library in Flensburg provides not only Danish reading material, a local history collection and reference services but also a full programme of cultural activities. There is an art gallery on the first floor and a flexible performance/meeting space within the main library on the second floor. The first time I visited a youth orchestra was rehearsing there. There is a programme of regular films, author visits, concerts, talks and Danish language learning opportunities. The volume of cultural activities is in contrast to the German library in the same city, which appears to have a much more book-loan focused service and is significantly smaller. This may be because the Danish library is supporting a linguistic minority, or it

Always a great magazine selection at Dokk1
may be representative of the different role of public libraries in Denmark.

**DOKK 1, Århus**

I recently visited the new city library in Århus, the vision for which was described by Karen Gibbins in Focus 46 (3). Here I saw all the now familiar Danish library features and designs but what was really spectacular was the facilities and services for children. The library is surrounded by imaginative play-sculptures and inside there are play areas for different age groups, dressing up, creative activities & workshops and a gaming street including interactive and computer games as well as traditional ones. I was impressed by the paper models on display from recent workshops and we had a good game of table football! There are several different spaces for adults and families to use, each with their own style, meeting rooms and study rooms can be reserved and there is even a small silent reading room. All have spectacular views across the harbour or city. As with Helsingør and Visby, this library is part of a harbour redevelopment project.

When travelling on a small boat, visiting libraries is what happens when it is too windy or not windy enough, we need a good free wi-fi connection, or perhaps just somewhere warm and comfy to sit. It has been a delight to discover a little of the local culture and plenty of inspiring architecture along the way. You may think from this tour (and there were plenty of other libraries that did not make the cut) that we did not have much time for sailing, lying in the sun, swimming in the warm seas, walking on smooth Moomin rocks... don’t worry, we did!

More information and images of the libraries mentioned, can be found on their websites:

- Kolding Bibliotek [https://koldingbib.dk/about-libraries](https://koldingbib.dk/about-libraries). See also [http://www.librarybuildings.info/denmark/kolding-library](http://www.librarybuildings.info/denmark/kolding-library)
- Mariehamn Stadsbibliotek [https://www.bibliotek.ax](https://www.bibliotek.ax)
- Alemedalsbiblioteket Visby [https://www.almedalsbiblioteket.se/english/Welcome.html](https://www.almedalsbiblioteket.se/english/Welcome.html)
- Dansk Centrallbibliotek for Sydslesvig [https://www.dc bib.dk/](https://www.dc bib.dk/)
- Dokk1, Århus [https://dokk1.dk/english](https://dokk1.dk/english)

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- Kolding Bibliotek: [https://flic.kr/p/hyocZJ](https://flic.kr/p/hyocZJ) (credit Fachstellen fur Öffentliche Bibliotheken NRW) also others in their album here: [https://flic.kr/s/aHsjMuzYEx](https://flic.kr/s/aHsjMuzYEx)
- Turku City Library. Several good photos in this album: [https://flic.kr/s/aHsjH3Qxm3](https://flic.kr/s/aHsjH3Qxm3) (credit Jonathan Rieke). Or this one: [https://flic.kr/p/z8h4o5](https://flic.kr/p/z8h4o5) (credit /kallu)
Interview with Janis Booth
Librarian at the Helena May Women’s Club
by Dr. Patrick Lo & Heather Rogers*

Founded in 1916 as a refuge for women and girls in Hong Kong, the historic Helena May Women’s Club has continued to serve the local community through educational outreach projects and literary festivals. In the following interview, former educator and current librarian for the Helena May Library, Janis Booth, provides an introduction to the rich history of the Helena May Library and the ways the library supports both European and local members in the Hong Kong community.

Could you introduce yourself and tell us about your academic history as well as your association with the Helena May Women’s Club and its in-house Club Library?

My name is Janis Booth and I am a part-time librarian here at the Helena May. I went to Newcastle upon Tyne University in the UK and I took a General Arts degree (BA) in English, Ancient History & Politics. I have been working here at the Helena May for about eight years, and have been a member of the Club for over ten years. Prior to that, I was working as a teacher for a local school in Hong Kong. I left teaching, but wasn’t ready to retire from work, so I decided to join the Helena May, and later on joined the Club’s library committee. I found that I really enjoyed working here at the Library. When the former Club Librarian left, I applied for the job. The librarian who was here before taught me all the skills for running the Library, as I had been working with her for quite a long time. I was her main volunteer assistant, for quite a while, so I did everything that she did and I knew what to do in terms of managing the Library’s daily operations.

At this Club, you tend to know all the members, so it is not like working in a public library where I expect that you see hundreds of people every day. At this Club, I know everyone who

*Dr. Patrick Lo is an Associate Professor, Faculty of Library, Information & Media Science, University of Tsukuba). Heather Rogers is a MISt Candidate at McGill University.
comes in, and it is more of a ‘social’ thing. The members tend to see me as a friend rather than a librarian.

Are you the solo Club librarian who needs to oversee all the daily operations plus manage everything else that is going on inside this Library?

There are two part-time librarians. My colleague is mainly responsible for the junior (children’s) library. She looks after junior book ordering and the displays in the Junior Library, while I am responsible for the adult library. The adult books are chosen from a mixture of choices from the Library Committee and members’ suggestions. I also keep an eye on the various annual book awards, and the library will order prize-winners.

Can you tell us more about the history of this Club?

The Club was originally founded in 1916, so it will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2016. Helena May was the wife of the 15th Hong Kong Governor, Sir Henry May. Lady May gave her ‘name’ to the Club, and the money [for the Club] was in fact donated by prominent local families here in Hong Kong. It was originally

Helen May Women’s Club Library
established to be a refuge for single European women working in Hong Kong or visiting their families stationed in Hong Kong. The remit of the ‘Helena May’ was to help women and girls in Hong Kong, something we still aim to do through our involvement in various charities.

Nowadays, what do you think attracts young women to come and stay in the Helena May?

It is residential [and] it is an inexpensive and secure place for a single woman to stay in. We get a lot of young women staying here – some of them are here looking for work in Hong Kong so they obviously need to budget their money. Women who are residents in the Club can have access to the Library for a small deposit. We have one regular resident from the UK currently writing a book and she uses the books in our Hong Kong section for research purposes.

Can you tell me about the history of the Library, and how it tied in with the rest of the Club?

There was always a library but not as big as this. During World War II (WWII) the building was occupied by the Japanese army officers. The place [room] you can see here was not the library - it was a ballroom then. During the War, all the books were taken away and sent to Japan. After WWII, the Library was started up again. There was not much money for books of course after the War. So a lot of people donated books to us but gradually over the years, as the membership increased, the Club was able to give the Library an annual budget for buying new books. Now we order 30 or 40 books every month from the UK. All of our books are in English but we have translations of some of the famous Chinese classics.

Can you describe the contents of the Club Library’s collections?

We have about 25,000 books, which includes about 6,000 junior library books. We have a large Hong Kong section, of course. We have a large section on China, a large section on India and other prominent Asian countries, as well as a large British section, etc.

Before and after the British colonial period in Hong Kong, was there a transition in terms of the contents or themes of the Club Library’s collections?

The Library content is, I believe, very much the same as it has always been. The Club’s membership is, generally-speaking, made up of more local Chinese members than in previous years. We also have a lot more Associate members nowadays.
Associate members are men. We find that, with the shift in the membership to a more local influence, the junior library is doing very well because a lot of our Chinese members want their children to read English books, so they bring their children to the library.

There are many social clubs and associations here in Hong Kong. How is this Club different from the other local social clubs in Hong Kong?

I think that this Library makes the Club quite special. None of the other clubs that I know of have a library as big as this, or one set in such a beautiful building.

Charity plays a big and important part in Club life. We have a Community Outreach Committee of women, whose job is to organise events for the Club to get involved in. People also like the quality of the ‘historic’ building itself. We have tours once a month and on our Club’s website you can register for one of these. Moreover, because of the history and interesting architecture, it is very popular for weddings and private dinners. They
also do a lot of fashion shows and photo shoots here at the Club.

*Can you describe the general profile of the people coming here? Are there a lot of working women?*

Compared to the old days, there are not that many tai tais (housewives) who come to the Club to have lunch here or afternoon tea. In Colonial days, wives would come to Hong Kong with their husbands and not bother to find work but that has changed. The majority of our female members are working women. Of course we have a lot of retired women too and they make up the bulk of the committees because they have more time to spare.

*How do you select the books for the collection, and do you put special emphasis on the colonial history of Hong Kong when you are acquiring books for this Club Library?*

The library committee, which is made up of volunteers, will go through the lists of new publications each month and they will select any books that they think our members would be interested in. We also think of “the Collection”, as we call the content of our library. We want quality authors on our shelves as well as ‘short-life’ easy-read paperbacks.

As I mentioned previously, we have a large Hong Kong section. Many of our books belonging to the Hong Kong section are very old books and a large number of them are in fact out-of-print now. Of course because of the Club’s history we do have a lot of books relating to Colonial times.

One member of the library committee is responsible for selecting local books and she will go around the bookshops in Hong Kong to look at the local publications. If the committee thinks we should get these new titles, then we get them.

*Which part of the job do you find most satisfying and rewarding?*

It is a great privilege to work in such a wonderful old building. The Library windows look out on the garden so the light is always natural daylight. It is nice when the children come down to the Library and they get really excited about being here. Not just the very young children but also the older children. Not enough older children these days read books and when you do get ones that come up and say, “I’ve just read this great book, have you got the sequel? Can you get the next one?” -- then for a librarian that is very satisfying!

**Reference**

1 Helena May – Homepage. Available at: [http://www.helenamay.com/Public/10_about_the_helenamay_intr.php](http://www.helenamay.com/Public/10_about_the_helenamay_intr.php)
2 The University of Hong Kong – Homepage. Available at: [http://www.hku.hk](http://www.hku.hk)
The Gosford City Library team was thrilled to launch the “World Through Picture Books” (http://www.ifla.org/node/6718) exhibition at Erina Library (http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/libraries/our-branches/erina-library) New South Wales (NSW) on 5 March, 2015. Award-winning Australian illustrator Bruce Whatley entertained a large audience of children’s literature professionals including a large contingent of librarians and teacher librarians, as well as interested community members.

As co-ordinator of the Australian list, it was a delight to invite Bruce who had illustrated two of the top ten Australian picture books: Pete the Sheep by Jackie French and The Little Refugee by Ahn & Suzanne Do. His extensive experience in interpreting text and visual literacy provided an informative and emotional presentation.

This was the inaugural Oceania exhibition. Previous exhibitions have been held in Japan and Europe. Children and young adults enjoyed the opportunity to share stories from many cultures, complementing the school curriculum across many age groups. 160 students from Gosford Selective High School attended a presentation and workshop day. After touring the exhibition, the hands-on sessions enabled students to experience an amazing collection of international titles exploring a variety of visual literacy concepts and artistic styles.

Local childcare centres brought pre-school children to share stories from many countries with translated versions sitting alongside the original titles. Favourites included The Story of the Little Mole Who Knew it Was None of His Business by Werner Holzwart and Stella Star of the sea by Mary-Louise Gay (Quebec Canada). Parents and staff joined library staff in stories, songs and rhymes in several languages.

There was a special Gosford event in Kibble Park called a World of Stories. Pre-school and school students experienced picture books read in a variety of languages. Students from Gosford High School, library staff and community members read stories in Spanish, French, Colombian and Russian. It was a wonderfully inclusive event; it gave staff an opportunity to share their home language and

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broadened our understanding of our local multi-cultural community. Gosford Library staff also shared stories from the exhibition in English, featuring stories from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Several events were organised for our local home-school community. Over three sessions, 50 children and 30 parents toured the exhibition. Staff then shared presentations based on topics featured in the international titles, such as culture, environmental issues and traditional tales. Focus on how children lived, worked and played in different countries highlighted both the differences and similarities for these local children. Parent feedback was very positive with many older children requesting further time to discuss visual literacy. Using a globe we traced the world as each story was shared.

The exhibition of over 300 titles provided so much rich literature to share. Staff at Erina Library used titles from Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for weekly story time sessions. Over 170 pre-school children and their parents shared stories and related craft activities during the month.
Patrons from our vast multi-cultural community toured the exhibition taking time to read their childhood favourites, contemporary media and re-interpreted classics. I discovered adults curled up enjoying titles from their homelands. Both the local Japanese and French communities used social media to promote the exhibition. Staff also co-ordinated a special event for Japanese families to share the exhibition. Parents used the event to re-discover old favourites and used the traditional kamishibai story screen to present to the library from our Sister City, Edogawa.

For the month of March, Erina Library became a truly international library with flags and banners heralding the brilliant *World Through Picture Books* exhibition. The brightly-coloured displays welcomed everyone and provided an opportunity to see, feel and enjoy the culture of so many countries through a diverse and exciting variety of fabulous picture books.

To assist our patrons and the wider community visiting the exhibition events, library staff assembled a large range on bi-lingual titles for display. This display was complemented with several language boxes from the NSW State Library language service (http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/public-library-services/multicultural-services).

Turkish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese picture books enhanced a large display of language resources and were borrowed during the month. Staff were able to further promote the regular language services and programmes, leading to increased circulation of both library and state library resources.
It was a sad day when we returned the exhibition boxes to the International Children’s library (http://www.kodomo.go.jp/english/index.html) in Tokyo where the Asian/Oceania exhibition is held.

Guiding children and adults through the exhibition was an amazing personal and professional experience. Exhibiting, reading and sharing over 300 book titles, in the format and content that illustrated the diversity of children’s literature, was a privilege. Every day we explored, enjoyed and learnt more from the titles.
The Australian list included in the World Through Picture Book exhibition in order of publication:

There’s a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake, Hazel Edwards. Illustrated by Deborah Niland (1980)
Possum Magic, Mem Fox. Illustrated by Julie Vivas (1983)
Wombat Stew, Marcia Vaughan. Illustrated by Pamela Lofts (1984)
Edward the Emu, Sheena Knowles. Illustrated by Rod Clement (1998)
Big Rain Coming, Katrina Germain Illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft (2002)
Pete the Sheep, Jackie French (2004)
Magic Beach, Alison Lester (2004)
The Lost Thing, Shaun Tan (2010)
The Little Refugee, Ahn Do and Suzanne Do. Illustrated by Bruce Whatley (2011)
Marx Meets Maslow:
The Needs-Based Public Library Part 1
by John Pateman*

‘To comfort the afflicted you have to afflict the comfortable’ Jean Vanier

My first book on public libraries, Developing a Needs-Based Library Service¹, was published in 2003. This book was a direct outcome of my lead role in a ground-breaking research project - Open to All? The Public Library and Social Exclusion² (2000) – which found that people who used public libraries the most, needed them the least; and people who used them the least, needed them the most. Open to All concluded that, in order to reverse this paradigm and ‘to become more than superficially “open to all”, the public library will need to transform itself into a far more proactive, educative and interventionist public institution, with a concern for social justice at its core.’

After Open to All? was published I was asked to speak at a number of conferences and events in the United Kingdom (UK). Many of these were not public library, or even library events. As an example, I was the keynote speaker at the national conference of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). NIACE has a broad remit to promote lifelong learning opportunities for adults. NIACE works to develop increased participation in education and training ‘particularly for those who do not have easy access because of barriers of class, gender, age, race, language and culture, learning difficulties and disabilities, or insufficient financial resources’. This definition can also be applied to those who need libraries the most but use them the least and lies at the heart of what I call the Needs-Based Public Library.

NIACE commissioned me to write Developing a Needs-Based Library Service (2003) which was published as part of their Lifelines in Adult Learning series. Some of the other titles in this series included Community Education and Neighbourhood Renewal, Spreading

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Part II of this article will appear in Focus Issue 47(3) November 2016
Marx Meets Maslow

the Word: reaching out to new learners, Managing Community Projects for Change and Engaging Black Learners in Adult and Community Education. NIACE saw the relevance of Open to All? to their work. The same cannot be said of the library profession in the UK. Open to All?, like many other reports before it and after, was quietly shelved and most public libraries carried on as before. Until 2010 that is, when an ideologically driven government began to challenge the need for public libraries because ‘everyone can afford to buy books and everyone has access to the internet’. Those libraries which adopted the ideas promoted by Open to All? have survived; many others have not.

It was a very different story in Canada where Open to All? was well received and helped to inspire the Working Together Project (http://www.librariesincommunities.ca/) This in turn fuelled the Community-Led Library movement which has swept across Canada. Canada now has some of the best community-led libraries in the world outside of Scandinavia (Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway) and Cuba. Edmonton Public Library is probably the most Community-Led library in Canada and the fact that it has also garnered some international and national awards is not a mere coincidence.

The Community-Led Library is not the end of the journey, but a transit point on a never-ending quest to meet community needs. If we view public libraries as a spectrum, with the Traditional Library at one end and the Needs-Based Library at the other end, the Community-Led Library is somewhere around the mid-way point. It is a station, not a destination.

The Traditional Library describes up to 80% of public libraries in Canada. The Community-Led Library makes up the other 20%. The Needs-Based Library does not exist because it is an asymptote – something that is continually aspired to but never fully achieved. It is a work in progress which can never be completed. It is a journey that never ends.

In this article I will describe the ideas of Marx³, and Maslow⁴,⁵ and how they can be applied to public libraries. I will use these ideas to explore the fundamental differences between the Traditional Library, the Community-Led Library, and the Needs-Based Library. And I will apply this analytical framework to my own organisation, Thunder Bay Public Library, to determine whether it is a Traditional, Community-Led or Needs-Based Library.

Marx

Marx is critical to an understanding of the Needs-Based Library because he introduced the theoretical concept of the Base and the Superstructure. In Marxist theory, human society consists of two parts: the Base (or substructure) and Superstructure.

The Base comprises the forces and relations of production into which people enter to produce the
necessities and amenities of life. These relations determine society’s other relationships and ideas, which are described as its Superstructure.

The Superstructure of a society includes its culture and ideology. The Base determines (shapes) the Superstructure, yet their relation is not strictly causal, because the Superstructure often influences (maintains) the Base; the influence of the Base, however, predominates. In Orthodox Marxism, the Base determines the Superstructure in a one-way relationship.

If we apply this concept to public libraries we can interpret the Superstructure as the organisational culture (‘the way we do things around here’) and the Base as the Strategy (what we do and why we do it), Structures (staffing and services) and Systems (policies and procedures). In this model the Base (Strategy, Structure, Systems) determines (conditions) the Superstructure (Culture). But their relation is not strictly causal, because the Superstructure (Culture) often influences the Base (Strategy, Structure, Systems). The influence of the Base (Strategy, Structure, Systems) however, predominates.

The other Marxist concept which is relevant to the Needs-Based Library is the maxim of ‘From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs’. This slogan was first used by Louis Blanc in 1851 and popularised by Karl Marx in 1875. The principle refers to free access and distribution of goods and services. In the Marxist view, such an arrangement will be made possible by the abundance of goods and services that a developed communist system will produce; the idea is that, with the full development of socialism and unfettered productive forces, there will be enough to satisfy everyone’s needs.

If we translate this thinking into public libraries we can interpret ‘from each according to his ability’ as every citizen (including library workers and patrons) will make his or her particular contribution to the activities of the public library according to his or her strengths (capacity and talents). In this model, public library services are co-produced (from planning and design through to delivery and evaluation) by the public library and the community working together in partnership, to share their strengths (capacity and talents).

Maslow
Maslow described human needs as ordered in a hierarchy – a lower level need would have to be mostly satisfied before someone would give their attention to the next highest need.

- At the bottom of the hierarchy are the Physiological needs of a human being: food, water, sleep.
- The next level is Safety Needs: Security, Order, and Stability. These two steps are important to the
physical survival of the person. Once individuals have basic nutrition, shelter and safety, they attempt to accomplish more.

• The third level of need is Love and Belonging, which are psychological needs; when individuals have taken care of themselves physically, they are ready to share themselves with others. This includes family and friends.

• The fourth level is achieved when individuals feel comfortable with what they have accomplished. This is the Esteem level, the need to be competent and recognised. Examples include through status and level of success.

• Then there is the Cognitive level where individuals intellectually stimulate themselves and explore.

• After that is the Aesthetic level which is the need for harmony, order and beauty.

• At the top of the pyramid, Self Actualisation occurs when individuals reach a state of harmony and understanding because they are engaged in achieving their full potential. Once a person has reached the self-actualisation state they focus on themselves and try to build their own image. They may look at this in terms of feelings such as self-confidence or by accomplishing a set goal.

• The first four levels are known as Deficit needs, or D-needs. This means that if you do not have enough of one of those four needs, you will have the feeling that you need to get it. But when you do get them, then you feel content. These needs alone are not motivating. Maslow suggested that there are certain conditions that must be fulfilled in order for the basic needs to be satisfied. For example, freedom of speech, freedom to express oneself, and freedom to seek new information are a few of the pre-requisites. Any blockages of these freedoms could prevent the satisfaction of the basic needs.

If we translate this concept into public libraries we can interpret the public library as playing a role in meeting all of these different levels of needs, from the most Basic or Physiological needs, right up to the need for Self Actualisation. The public library has historically focused on meeting the higher level needs – the Cognitive, Aesthetic and Self Actualisation needs.

The public library has not been so interested or involved in meeting the lower level needs – the Basic, Safety, Belonging and Esteem needs. Yet, as Maslow pointed out, until these needs are met, people cannot move up the hierarchy to meet their higher level needs. This helps to explain why public libraries are only actively used by 20% of the community. And this is where Marx meets Maslow.
An active library user is a library card holder who uses a wide range of library services on a regular basis. Active users use the library the most but need it the least, because their lower level needs have already been met.

Active user rates vary from library to library. Across public libraries in Ontario the average active user rate is 35.2% of the total population. In Thunder Bay the active user rate is 29.08%.

Passive library users typically make up another 30% of the local community. A passive user is a library card holder who visits the library on a one-off or occasional basis. Passive users have a range of met and unmet needs across the Maslow spectrum.

Non-library users typically make up 50% of the local community. A non-user is someone who does not have a library card and does not visit the library. Non-users use the library the least but need it the most, because their lower level needs have not been met.

Public libraries can play a significant role in meeting all of the needs in the Maslow hierarchy. At the Basic and Safety level we can work in partnership with organisations which provide food and shelter. Or we can directly employ outreach and community development workers who focus on those with the greatest needs. At the Belonging and Esteem levels, we can help to make people feel a part of the local community by providing democratic public space and becoming the living room of the community. We can also provide some of the conditions that must be fulfilled in order for these basic needs to be satisfied, such as freedom of speech, freedom to express oneself, and freedom to seek new information. We are already well practised in enabling people to meet their Cognitive, Aesthetic and Self Actualisation needs.

So let us now apply Marx and Maslow to the Traditional Library, the Community-Led Library and the Needs Based Library (see Figure 1).

**Traditional Library**

‘Bad libraries build collections’ (David Lankes)

The Strategy is focused on the needs of active library users. These ‘dominant readers’ are predominantly white, middle class, female and over 55. The needs of these users are assumed because they reflect the needs and values of library staff.

The Staff Structure is a bureaucracy in which power is distributed according to position within the hierarchy. Staff are organised in rigid vertical silos or departments. Communication within the organisation is also vertical. Leadership is position based, with most of the control and resources concentrated at the top of the hierarchy.
Figure 1: The Traditional - Community-Led – Needs-Based Continuum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Traditional (80%)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Community Led (20%)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Needs Based (0%)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lankes</td>
<td>Bad libraries build collections</td>
<td>Good libraries build services</td>
<td>Great libraries build communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Marx - Superstructure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Active users Assumed needs</th>
<th>Potential users Assessed needs</th>
<th>Non-users Greatest needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Staff</td>
<td>Hierarchy</td>
<td>Matrix</td>
<td>Holacracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Services</td>
<td>Passive, reactive Buildings, desks</td>
<td>Participative, Empowerment Roving, outreach</td>
<td>Leadership Partnerships, Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>Disabling Rules</td>
<td>Enabling Frameworks</td>
<td>Empowering Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Quantitative Statistics</td>
<td>Qualitative Evaluation</td>
<td>Outcomes and Impacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Marx - Base**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Social control Status Quo</th>
<th>Social Inclusion Evolution</th>
<th>Social Change Transformation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Maslow - Needs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Cognitive, Aesthetic, Self actualisation</th>
<th>Belonging, Cognitive, Asesthetic</th>
<th>Physiological, Safety, Belonging, Esteem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Marx Meets Maslow
Staff have little sense of purpose, autonomy or mastery. Each person has exactly one job description. That description is often imprecise, outdated, and irrelevant to their day-to-day work. In Traditional Libraries managers loosely delegate authority, but ultimately, their decisions always trump those they manage and everybody knows it. Any initiative outside the norm typically requires the bosses approval, explicitly or implicitly.

In Traditional Libraries, the organisation chart gets revamped every few years. These cyclical ‘re-organisations’ are an attempt to keep up with the changing environment, but since they only occur every three to five years, they are almost always out-of-date.

The Service Structure is highly traditional and focused on collections and buildings. Services are divided into Children’s, Adult, and Reference, with staff being scheduled and operating from separate desks. The buildings were located for historical reasons, and are organised into spaces with defined single-use functions. Services are provider-led and community engagement is at the Passive (local residents and organisations are informed of issues by the Library) and Re-active levels (local residents and organisations provide input into the priorities and resource use of the Library).

The Systems are disabling with a strong focus on rules and regulations which only make sense to staff and active users (the included), and punitive fines and fees which are a barrier to those on low incomes.

From a Marxist perspective the Base (Strategies, Structures and Systems) and Superstructure (Culture) are designed to maintain the status quo and the public library is an agency of social control. Services are offered on a one model fits all, take it or leave it basis. The strengths (capacity and talents) of library workers are not fully used to meet the needs of the local community. The motto is ‘If it is not broken, then it does not need fixing’. Things are done a certain way because ‘that’s how we’ve always done it’, and these implicit rules are hard to change. Often no one knows why these rules exist, who decided them, or who can change them. This makes distributing authority almost impossible, because there is no way to ensure that everyone is following the same set of rules.

From a Maslow perspective the Traditional Library focuses on meeting higher level needs (Cognitive, Aesthetic, Self Actualisation).

Community-Led Library
‘Good libraries build services’ (David Lankes)
The Strategy is focused on the needs of current (active) and potential (passive) users. The needs of these users are not assumed but assessed, via a range of tools including community profiling and community asset mapping.
The **Staff Structure** is a matrix in which power is distributed and shared throughout the organisation. Staff are grouped into teams and communication is both vertical and horizontal. Position descriptions are loosely prescribed and staff have a good sense of purpose, autonomy and mastery. Leadership is team based, with control and resources devolved to a tactical level.

The **Service Structure** is flexible and focused on services and outreach. Staff scheduling is integrated and services are delivered via roving within library buildings and outreach programmes to community settings. Library spaces are multiple-use and services are community-led. Community engagement is at the **Participative** (local residents and organisations influence the priorities and resources of the Library) and **Empowerment** levels (local residents and organisations work in shared planning and action with the library).

The **Systems** are enabling with a flexible framework of guidelines and best practice which shape and inform service delivery. This framework is continually updated based both on what works and what is changing in the community. New systems are piloted and embedded or dropped depending on whether they are desirable, useful and useable.

From a Marxist perspective the **Base** (**Strategy, Structures, Systems**) and the **Superstructure** (**Culture**) are designed to ensure that the library is continually evolving and changing for the better and the public library is an agency of social inclusion. A range of flexible, nimble and adaptable services are offered which seek to match the strengths (capacity and talents) of library workers with the needs of the local community. The motto is ‘**Let’s try to make things better**’. Things are done in a spirit of curiosity and exploration and there are no hard and fast rules, which makes them easy to change. Staff know why the guidelines exist, had a role in deciding them, and can put forward suggestions for changing them. This makes distributing authority easier because everyone is following the same framework.

From a Maslow perspective the **Community-Led Library** meets a mix of deficit needs (**Belonging**, **Esteem**) and higher level needs (**Cognitive**, **Aesthetic**).

**Needs-Based Library**

‘**Great libraries build communities**’ (David Lankes)

The **Strategy** is focused on the needs of non-users and particularly those with the greatest needs. Community needs are identified, prioritised and met via co-production. The library and the community work together in the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of library services.

The **Staff Structure** is a **Holacracy** which removes power from the management hierarchy and distributes it across clear roles, which can then be executed autonomously, without a micro-managing boss. The work is
actually more structured than in a *Traditional Library*, just differently so. The *Traditional Library* hierarchy is replaced by a series of inter-connected but autonomous *Circles*. This shift can dramatically increase a library's capacity to adapt to changing conditions. It also allows these libraries to have both alignment and agency without the typical pathologies of ‘leaderless’ groups or autocratic micromanagement that slows everything down. There is a clear set of processes for how a *Circle* breaks up its work, and defines its roles with clear responsibilities and expectations.

Staff have multiple roles, often in different *Circles*, and those role descriptions are constantly updated by the *Circle* actually doing the work. This allows people a lot more freedom to express their creative talents, and the library can take advantage of those skills in a way it could not before. Since roles are not directly tied to the people filling them, people can hand-off and pick-up new roles fairly easily. But more than that, it means that when you are filling a role, you are able to energise the work with a level of clarity and awareness most traditional employees do not have. The roles are vested with authority, not the people. This means that the roles and the authorities can be constantly updated without office politics. The agility that this provides comes directly from distributed authority. Authority is truly distributed and decisions are made locally by the individual closest to the front line. *Circles* are self-organised:

they are given a purpose, but they decide internally how to best reach it.

The *Service Structure* is needs-led and focused on communities and community development. The *Service Structure* is updated every month in every *Circle* i.e. what roles are doing and owning what work or decisions. This happens in frequent incremental steps rather than rare massive changes, and it happens in every *Circle* at all levels. The library re-organises itself as often as necessary to capitalise on a learning opportunity or address a critical problem. This happens in frequent ‘governance meetings’ where roles and processes are revised given what’s actually happening in the *Circle*. Services are delivered via partnership working with a range of organisations and community development through relationship building. Community engagement is at the *Leadership* level with local residents and organisations initiating and leading on issues with support from the Library.

The *Systems* are empowering with authority distributed not from the leader at the top to a group of people, but to an explicit process defined in detail in a written document: the *Constitution*. Everyone is bound by the same *Constitution*, even the Chief Executive Officer. The transparency of the *Constitution* means that you no longer have to depend on office politics to get things done. With the *Constitution* made accessible to everyone, anyone in the library can quickly figure out who owns what,
the decisions he or she can make, and who to hold accountable for which functions.

From a Marxist perspective the Base (Strategy, Structures, Systems) and the Superstructure (Culture) are designed to ensure that the library is in a constant state of transformation and disruptive innovation and the public library is an agency of social change. The Needs-Based Library has an underpinning philosophy and set of values – social justice – and a new way of thinking, acting and working - critical librarianship. The motto is ‘If it is not broken, let’s break it anyway and see if we can make something better out of it.’ Critical librarianship seeks to be transformative, disruptive, innovative, empowering and a direct challenge to power and privilege. Librarians that practice critical librarianship strive to communicate the ways in which libraries consciously and unconsciously support systems of oppression.

From a Maslow perspective the Needs-Based Library focuses on meeting deficit needs (Physiological, Safety, Belonging, Esteem).

Bibliography


3 Marx, Karl A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy. 1859


6 Marx, Karl Critique of the Gotha Program. 1875


Further Reading

Focus on Focus: The Journal of ILIG:
Part 3, 2000 – 2004
by Alice Tyler*

A brief note for new readers to this multi-part article

The first issue of Focus was the report of a meeting, held on 9 March 1967 at the Head Office of the Library Association. The title of this report was Focus on International and Comparative Librarianship. This title was used by the further updates published during the campaign to set up an International and Comparative Librarianship Group (ICLG) as a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Library Association (LA). The campaign was successful. At the beginning of the 1968 LA membership year ICLG had become a Library Association SIG. And the title of the original report and - its updates - became the title of ICLG's journal - Focus on International Library and Information Work. I will, as the Group has always done for every day purposes, shorten this title to "Focus" with the volume in figures followed by the part number as a figure in parentheses - as below:

Focus on International and Comparative Librarianship, Volume 31, Number 1, 2000 is written as Focus 31(1), 2000 - and so on.

A big change
As mentioned in Part 2, there had been discussions for many years about uniting the organisations involved in library and information work into a single body. This, the third of my wanders through the pages of Focus, concentrates on the years immediately before and after the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries when such a union did take place - a big change.

According to page 27 of Focus 32(1), most members of the Library Association (LA) were aware that a merger was being negotiated between the LA and the Institute of Information Scientists (IIS) that could take effect from April 2002. I wonder if the use of the word "most" implies that it came as a surprise to some LA members? I also see that the word "union", rather than "merger" is used after the LA and IIS merger:

I was one of the LA's members living outside the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) at the time. I did receive copies of the monthly Library Association Record (LAR) but not the Vacancies Supplement which was published every two weeks and so had a much shorter lead-in time than LAR. The Vacancies Supplement was used to update LA members - between issues of LAR - on what was happening. However LA

* Alice Tyler is the Associate Editor of Focus on International Library and Information Work
members based outside the UK did not receive the *Vacancies Supplement* - unless they paid for it!

The merger did take place - on 1 April 2002. The merged/united LA and IIS became the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. This name was, and still is, shortened in legal, official and formal documents to "the Institute" but in everyday life it is usually referred to as "CILIP". (Note, never "the CILIP", a point made very clear by the new body's very detailed 'Brand Guidelines'. Unfortunately the illustrations in these 'Brand Guidelines' do not match their descriptions in words. I find this very confusing when proof-reading Focus.)

**Legalities, technicalities and practicalities**
Running a registered charity is tough at the best of times because everything a registered charity does has to be done in full compliance with the wording of its Governing Document plus the wording of any and all Bye-laws, General Regulations and Appendixes which come below its Governing Document.

Trying to cope with the legalities, technicalities and practicalities of the changes involved in uniting the LA (under English law a Royal Charter Charity since 1964 with the number 313014) and the IIS - which to the best of my knowledge and belief had neither a Royal Charter nor charitable status under any UK or English law - while keeping the new body known as CILIP running as normally as possible, must have been a nightmare for everyone involved.

By the way, any amendment to change of the name of a chartered body - in this case the LA - requires the approval of the Queen in Council. The Queen formally approved the 2002 change of name - from the LA to CILIP - on 21 May 2002. Since then there have three further amendments to the wording of the CILIP Royal Charter/Registered Charity 313014's Governing Document. These amendments, resolved by the CILIP membership at the CILIP 2007, 2008 and 2014 Annual General Meetings, were approved by the Privy Council later in those years and came into force at the beginning of the next CILIP governance year - that is on 1 January 2008, 2009 and 2015.

Privy Council approval was sufficient for these amendments - even the substantial ones of 2007, which included changing CILIP's governance year to the calendar year and reducing the size of CILIP Council from around 60 members to 12 (with an option to co-opt up to three more). This is why the date at the end of the wording of the CILIP Royal Charter/313014 Governing Document remains 21 May 2002. (It took me years to get my head around this point).

All amendments to the wording of CILIP's Royal Charter/313014's Governing Document cause a cascade of consequential amendments to
the wording of the other tiers of governance which come below the Royal Charter/Governing Document. These other tiers define and refine the principles set out in the Royal Charter/Governing Document in ever greater detail. For example, the February 2015 wording of the CILIP/313014 'General Regulations Appendix F Part 2 - Special Interest Group Rules' set out how to run a CILIP Special Interest Group on a day to day basis.

Thankfully the copies of the 2014 wordings of the CILIP Royal Charter/313014 Governing Document, Bye-laws and General Regulations on the CILIP website include a header making it clear that that the wording is the 2014 wording. The 2015 date for the Group Rules is given clearly near the top of the first page.

Found in Focus for 2000
The first article in Focus 31(1) on pages 5-23 has the title "Scotland the What?" and discusses the English and Scottish languages in the context of the languages of Great Britain. When language, both intranationally as in this article and internationally, is seen as part of the identity of a particular group of people within a nation or across several nations, it can cause disputes with devastating consequences such as persecution and war. At the very least it can give rise to bafflement. On my first visit to the United States of America (USA) in the early 1970s I was baffled when I saw scones and gravy on the menu. I ordered them - to me they were like dumplings in a white sauce! Here in the UK, American families transferred from the USA as the North Sea oil industry was expanding, were baffled to find, in the local telephone books, many companies dealing with dead peoples affairs but none dealing with buying, selling or letting houses. In England estate agents deal with buying, selling and letting houses.

On page 37 of Focus 31(1) is the report of the first IGLA Informal, held on 29 March 2000. Its theme was the Havana Book Fair and libraries in Cuba. On pages 136-138 of Focus 31(3) is an article on Cuban libraries, from Impact the journal of the CILIP Career Development Group (CDG), printed with CDG's permission. Interestingly there is a note from the Focus Editor that "This discussion is now closed."

Found in Focus for 2001
Changes to the style of Focus were made from Focus 32(1) for 2001 to reduce printing and postage costs while including as much content as before. Focus 32(1) includes the LA's Mission and Aims, as at November 1998, and the IGLA international policy statement - see pages 27 to 29. These pages make interesting reading. The most recent CILIP International policy document I am aware of is one dated 2009. I see from the IGLA international policy statement that the Group has "especially strong links with the International Subcommittee of
Focus on Focus

the Library Association and the British Council”.

Focus 32 (2) fanfares the setting up of iglalist - IGLA's email discussion group using Yahoo! Groups. It is mentioned several times in this issue.

Focus 32(3) includes a European News Special Feature on pages 89-91, contributed by the LA's European Consultant. Interesting on two counts. 1) In the light of the UK's vote, on 23 June 2016, to leave the European Union (EU). 2) In 2016, CILIP no longer has an International Panel, Board, Committee or Officer nor, it seems, anyone with "International" in their job title.

Found in Focus for 2002
In 2002, Focus 33(1) the Focus Editor, Stella Keenan, announces her retirement and her successor, Dr Ann Irving. Stella also mentions, in her Editorial, that it has been necessary to make a number of changes to Focus to bring it in line with the new organisation - the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals - that has evolved as a result of the merger of the Library Association and the Institute of Information Scientists.

A change not just to Focus! IGLA had to change its name - and became CILIP's International Library and Information Group (ILIG). IGLAlist had to change its name and became ILIGlist.

The Group also changed its journal's name, to Focus on International Library and Information Work. Interestingly, the volume numbers continued as if nothing had happened. But there was a complication. Re-naming Focus triggered a change to its International Standard Book Number (ISSN) - a point which had somehow been missed by ILIG. Thanks to some information from a Cuban library's website (it's a long story) ILIG realised what it had failed to do and contacted the ISSN UK Centre. It seems such panic calls to the ISSN UK Centre are not that unusual! Which suggests that the purpose of ISSNs - as an internationally accepted code which identifies the title of serial publications - is not necessarily working as intended.

The first three articles in Focus 33(3) are by three attendees at the meeting, in Glasgow, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the formation of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) - and when IFLA came home. IFLA had come home, to Scotland, because IFLA was founded in Edinburgh on 30 September 1927 at the international conference marking the LA's Golden Jubilee. (The LA was founded in 1877 but I have not yet been able to find the month or day - sorry.)

Also in this issue is a report, on page 102, entitled "Three Hot Topics: ILIG's European Awareness Seminar". The three hot topics being data protection, freedom of information and copyright. They are still hot topics in 2016!
**Found in Focus for 2003**

This was a busy year for ILIG, as reported in Focus. ILIG ran 11 (eleven) Informals - one held in Newcastle Central Library with the theme "Challenging views: a personal account of working with international colleagues" - plus giving 5 (five) presentations to Umbrella 7 at the University of Manchester in July. And temperatures in the summer of 2003 reached a record breaking 38.1°C (101°F)! The articles in Focus 34 cover all the usual topics.

In Focus 34(1) on page 9 I read about the European Commission website on "eLearning". On pages 32-34 is "A Report to CILIP International Library and Information Group AGM 2003" about 'LIBEX - Bureau for International Library Staff Exchange' as its administration is taken over by CILIP. (I wonder, is page 32 the first time - in an ILIG publications - that the acronym "CILIP" has appeared before the name of the Group? CILIP ILIG is the correct form because the Group is an integral part of CILIP, not a stand-alone.)

In Focus 34(2), on pages 59-64, is an account of a visit to Cuba in 2002 which gives useful background information about the country. And on pages 68 and 69 the report on ILIG at Umbrella 7 talks of "a useful day, an official day, and a risky day". The emphasised LA, the open umbrella symbol and the phrase "under one umbrella" worked beautifully for a LA event. Sadly it does not work for a body known as CILIP.

Focus 34(3) was published in January 2004 - to avoid the Christmas post and to better space out the three issues over the year - with a cover date of 2003. An article on pages 84-89 about volunteering is still relevant. In the 'Notes for contributors' on page 119 contributors, are asked to avoid files with a .doc extension because they can carry viruses. Still true.

**Found in Focus for 2004**

The quotation below comes from the last paragraph of the Editorial on page 3 of Focus 35(1)

"...we will now place the Acrobat PDF file copies of earlier issues of Focus onto our website. When CILIP has re-launched its new website later this year, we hope to be able to offer all ILIG members who have Internet access PDF copies of the current issue via a membership password. Then we will ask individual ILIG members if you would prefer this format instead of or in addition to the usual print on paper version." They are still available, via the Open UK Web Archive, at: http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20130627105302/http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/international/publications/focus/back-copies/Pages/default.aspx

In Focus 35(2) the article "Thirty-four years of the International Group" on pages 58-63 tells the story of the Group from the formal beginning of the campaign to establish an LA International and Comparative...
Librarianship Group - the meeting on 9 March 1967. But, technically, no such LA Group existed until the beginning of the 1968 membership year, 1 January 1968.

The ILIG Annual Report - on pages 64-66 of Focus 35(2) as ILIG business - covered January 2003 to March 2004. A 15 (fifteen) month year was a hiccup in the changes from the LA to CILIP and from IGLA to ILIG. On the other hand, the 2007/2008 CILIP governance year lasted only 9 (nine) months. Why will be explained in Part 4.

In Focus 35(3) the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004 features prominently with appeals for help for affected countries from the IFLA President and for Sri Lanka in particular. Both contain very practical advice on how to help in an effective way after such natural disasters.

Footnote
1 ISSN UK Centre
The British Library
Boston Spa
WETHERBY
LS23 7BK
UNITED KINGDOM
Eurolis News*

Seminar for 2016 - Save the Date

The 2016 seminar will take place on

Libraries and Human Rights

on Friday 25 November at the Goethe Institut, London with Martyn Wade (Chair of the CILIP Board and FAIFE) as the Chair for the day.

The Eurotoolbox is a special collection of the best children’s books published in the last year in English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish, offered to any library in the United Kingdom interested in promoting European languages for the young. It is a FREE loan for professional librarians to borrow for two weeks or more at a time.

The Eurotoolbox 2016/17 was launched at Brighton Jubilee Children’s Library on 12th July as part of the CILIP conference 2016.

It is on exhibit there until 26th August.

If you would like to book the collection for your library, email Mariella Reidy library.icilondon@esteri.it

*European Cultural Institutes librarians based in London working together to promote European Languages in the United Kingdom in association with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

https://eurolis.wordpress.com/about-us/
Introduction (Vorwort)
With an honours degree in German and a Chartered Librarian, what could be better than the opportunity to attend the Bibliothekskongress (German Library Congress) in Leipzig? Not only that, but this was the three-yearly special event, the International Congress, where the Bibliothek und Information Deutschland (BID - German Library Association) would welcome its new partner country, the United States of America (USA). So, bigger and better, and with a very real international feel.

I was there representing the United Kingdom’s (UK) Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), specifically as a committee member of their International Library and Information Group (ILIG).

As well as this, I particularly wanted to learn about the role of German libraries in welcoming refugees, to support and inform my day-to-day work as Network Librarian with High Life Highland in Inverness, Scotland.

Of course, the prospect of being able to improve my German language skills, in the context of my profession, also appealed.

Bibliothek & Information International (BI-International)
Let me say straight away that, on a practical level, I am extremely grateful for the vision of BI-International.

“This stated aim enabled me personally to attend the Conference in Leipzig, and thus to liaise and learn from professional colleagues from not only Germany but, as an added bonus, from other parts of the world as well.
I was delighted to learn that Bibliothek & Information International (BII) had offered me a generous grant to meet expenses while attending the Conference. I would have endeavoured to attend anyway, but financially this made all the difference.

On behalf of the International Library and Information Group (ILIG), I was pleased to be able to bring greetings to the BII team, and to Susanne Riedel in particular, from our own committee members. Having worked with her in the past, ILIG was very happy to endorse my visit to Leipzig this year; it was a pleasure to strengthen our German ties by meeting her in person.

Congress – Initial Impressions (Erste Eindrücke vom Kongress)

Arrangements and briefing before the event were very well organised; everything was thought of; it was clearly exceptionally well planned; just as you would expect from a librarians’ event! The Congress “app” was invaluable for planning what to attend, as well as for keeping a personal record of events and contacts.

This certainly made it much easier to navigate my way through the bustle and noise of the first morning’s arrival – I didn’t even need to queue to register, because this had all previously been taken care of online. The scale of the event was immediately apparent, and could have been quite overwhelming, but all I had to do was pick up my conference goodie bag, enter through the turnstiles, and locate (eventually) the first session of the day, the International Welcome.
International Librarian’s Orientation
An added benefit was the thoughtful invitation to attend the International Librarian’s Orientation on the morning of the first day; this meant that, instead of being left completely to my own devices to find my way around, I was immediately put at ease and given a friendly and warm introduction, as part of a group of other international delegates. Straight away I was able to make contact with and chat to like-minded people. Other nationalities represented included a lady from France, and one other delegate from the UK, both of whom were involved in presentations later in the week; I immediately knew that these two were allies and on the same wavelength as myself.

Also, it was lovely to be there as the Guests of Honour (the American delegation), were welcomed. Of course, this welcome was in English, and I was there to practice my German; actually, I hadn’t really intended to go out of my way to get to know the American librarians (again, because my main aim was to discover more about the world of German libraries), but in practice, this ended up being one of the nicest things about the whole Conference. I’d gone to learn about Germany, but ended up learning so much more.

Lectures and Seminars (Vorträge und Veranstaltungen)
Most of us attended the Opening Ceremony. It brought with it a sense of occasion, but the downside was that it overran.

After that, there was a wealth of subjects to choose from over the following few days, and I did make the time to pick and mix a few sessions that reflected my work at home with school. I was surprised to learn that many German schools do not have a library at all, so I was left with the impression that we are much further ahead back home. Like many Network Librarians in Highland, I am based in a school library, and play an integral role in reader development and information skills across the school curriculum. At least for the time being, professionally qualified librarians are still valued in Highland schools, although across Scotland many have been under threat of job cuts, leaving school libraries to be run by non-qualified staff. Ideally,
I would like to have followed this up, but that was not my main focus this time. I would have been delighted if there had been a delegate from our twin town of Augsburg, to discuss a link, but on this occasion it was not to be.

**Welcoming Culture (Willkommenskultur)**

These were the presentations I had come to hear, and they did not disappoint. Providing well-informed background and statistics, they reflected on the role of libraries in welcoming refugees. Some of the examples of best practice were just super, and I came away with a wealth of information and practical ideas for implementation at home. García-Febo

> “Libraries are vital centres for diverse populations including immigrants, refugees and multi-lingual people”

Loida (http://loidagarciafebo.com) led the first session with an inspiring presentation which served to set the tone for the rest of the Congress. She shared core principles and guidelines, as well as examples of best practice from around the globe. Entitled *Saving lives: library services to diverse populations*, her presentation threw down the gauntlet as a challenge for all professional librarians to consider how their own libraries might be called upon to make a vital difference.

We were reminded of Article 19 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states:

> “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Target 16.10 of the Declaration directly involves all libraries, and is an undeniable call to action:

> “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements”

I had not realised that the International Federation of Library and Information Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is recognised so formally by the United Nations
Educational and Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and so was delighted to learn from the President herself that she had led a team promoting information literacy at the highest level. Her team’s negotiations led to this being included as a fundamental building block in every single Sustainability Goal. Such is the influence of well-informed and feisty librarians when they are on the move.

With so much to choose from there was inevitably some disappointment when some events clashed. The one that mattered was the Monday afternoon session of Willkommenskultur and IFLA’s ‘Where are we now in Library Services for Refugees’. I opted to miss the IFLA one in favour of the German libraries, but would very much have liked to hear first-hand what the IFLA representatives had to say from the global perspective.

Later in the week was part two of these sessions, and these turned out to be the best of all. The session from Susanne Brandt (Büchereizentrale Schleswig-Holstein) about ‘Silent Books’, which focused on the International Board for Book for Young People (IBBY) project ‘Silent Books – Final...
Destination Lampedusa.’ was of particular practical interest to me. Having done some work with silent books before, I could immediately see the possibilities, both for children at school with learning difficulties, but also from a public library perspective.


“Silent books … providing a bridge to the world around us, when words cannot express the way we feel.”

Pictures speak many languages, and these books without words can help to overcome barriers and play a vital empathetic role, for all ages, and not least with those who have suffered trauma, find themselves in a country with a new language, and need a medium to express how they feel. My German language skills were keeping pace, so I even stepped up to the microphone and asked a question.

The other two presentations on that final afternoon focused on multicultural libraries. The first was a project from Duisburg: Ankomen in Deutschland (Arrival in Germany). The librarian, Yilmaz Holtz-Ersahin, is himself, a Turkish immigrant. He was delightful; with some very informative statistics, and a disarming smile, he won us all over with his enthusiasm. Duisburg has over 40 years of being established as an intercultural library, and now regularly attracts adult learners too, especially from the Turkish community. On offer are a range of themed resources and information booklets in many languages. With the number of Syrian refugees rising steadily, Duisburg has been ready. And, since 2011, there has also been a dedicated Internationale
Kinderbibliothek (International Children's Library). With 5000 items, mostly dual language, this seeks to appeal to indigenous German children as well as those from other lands. A whole range of activities, for all ages, happens here in this vibrant library.

"for children must first understand their mother tongue in order to better understand themselves and the world around them."

Lastly, but by no means least, the Kinderbücherei der Weltsprachen (The children's world library in Vienna) was, for me, quite possibly the highlight of the Congress. The aim is to keep international children reading when they do not have access to books in their own first language. So they set about transforming a branch library, asking for donations, and working with an organisation called 'Who I Am' who shared the vision. They are well on their way to achieving the goal of 100 titles in each of the 30 target languages, and various events and programmes have captured the hearts and minds of the community.

"Research shows that children who gain literacy in their own mother tongue will ultimately learn their host language better"

This lovely new library, describing itself as the bunteste Büchereizweigstelle Wiens (the most colourful branch library in Vienna) seems to me to have achieved its aspiration to be a role-model:

"... setting new standards for cross-cultural libraries and anyone responsible for the provision of resources for children from other linguistic backgrounds"

Part of my remit for the public library in Inverness is to develop our welcoming multi-cultural ethos, and be a recognised place where people from a variety of language and cultural backgrounds can feel at home. The willingness is there, but we need to think of new, more effective ways to encourage people to use our space. The Viennese example shows what can be achieved when like-minded organisations work together with and on behalf the local community. Of course, our population is tiny in comparison, and we have not had the influx of immigrants that Vienna has had to contend with, but nonetheless, the numbers are growing in Highland too (school supporting children with 62 mother languages!), and, with the first Syrian refugee families soon to arrive here, we need to be ready, even on a smaller scale, to provide the famous Highland welcome in the library context.

Our dual-language stock at present is leased on a short-term basis, to ensure circulation of a variety of stock without the financial commitment of purchasing for seemingly small sub-sections of the population; this, however, means that there is not much to choose from at any given time. I was, therefore, particularly interested to hear how well the Viennese donation scheme has
worked. Under normal circumstances, encouraging donations can be ‘a pig in a poke’ (more trouble than it is worth), but I would like to persuade my senior colleagues that, in this case, with such specialised dual and foreign language stock, and with the right parameters in place an experiment might well be the way forward. I would like to think that this would at the same time engender in the potential donors a sense of ownership of ‘their’ multi-lingual library.

IFLA - Strategic Directions and Goals and the Role of Librarians (Strategien der IFLA)

The icing on the Congress cake was the IFLA connection. I have for a long time been interested in IFLA, so this was an expected bonus. Their presentations were informative and inspiring and it was a pleasure to meet the President, Donna Scheeder.

Libraries have a responsibility to protect and promote cultural heritage. The other UK delegate is a committee member of IFLA Library Services to Multi-cultural Populations Section, and from her I learnt more about the IFLA/UNESCO Multi-cultural Library Manifesto and accompanying Toolkit at http://www.ifla.org/node/8976. This is something concrete that I can take forward and present as a framework to my senior colleagues. I have to admit that I am now considering membership of IFLA and this Section in particular.

What I hadn’t been aware of was how IFLA offers practical global guidelines and standards for public libraries, to arm the smallest library at local level. Annie Dourlent (Bibliothèque Centre Pompidou) IFLA committee member in the Public Libraries section, raised awareness of IFLA’s high standing, and showed how a working knowledge of its manifestos can help to support libraries worldwide; it may even provide some political leverage at local government level in times of financial cuts, as is the case back in Scotland, and across the UK. This Section also offers what they describe as the Ultimate Guide for Librarians:

“1001 Libraries to see before you die” (http://www.ifla.org/node/8734)

American Library Association (ALA)

Although I had wanted to focus on developing German links, the extra
bonus was learning more about the ALA; its scale is vast compared to our UK equivalent, CILIP. There is even an International Relations Office with a full-time Director. CILIP ILIG is a tiny by comparison – but I would like to think that our enthusiasm for global librarianship nonetheless matches theirs.

**The Extras (Sonstiges)**

In just a few days I could only hope to scratch the surface of what Leipzig has to offer, but it captivated me.

My initial game plan had been to attend as many seminars as possible, but I soon realised that this was the way to information overload, and that it would be far better to take some time out to enjoy the bigger picture, and the town itself. So instead, I joined the Americans one morning on a visit to the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library). This was a fascinating peep behind the scenes and of interest in particular to my UK colleague, Adjoa K. Boateng, who holds responsibility for the British Library Reference collections. They hold 30 million items, and every day the collection grows by over 2,000 books, both physical and online.

The Deutsches Buch-und Schriftmuseum (German Museum of Books and Writing) is firmly on the agenda for our next visit to Leipzig.

As if we hadn’t already been well enough looked after, Leipzig’s Oberbürgermeister issued all the international librarians with an invitation to attend a reception at the Rathaus, where he welcomed the American delegation, in particular in both German and English.

The official party over, next on the social programme was the Kongress party at the Moritzbastei. This had been an optional, ticket-only event, and well worth paying for; after what had already been a very busy and full couple of days, this was a lovely, informal evening, where we could all take time to relax.

As the Kongress came to an end, the Buchmess (Book Fair) began. And it would have been inexcusable to miss this. What an experience, what a scale, and what a buzz, with events and performances happening all over the town – an estimated 3,000 readings!

My final morning was spent meandering through the town centre, with its charming inner courtyards and passages. I paid homage to Bach at the Thomaskirche, and spent time just sitting in the Nikolaikirche, reflecting on its recent history. It was a delightfully sunny morning, but it passed all too quickly, and soon it was time to head back to the railway station (fascinating in its own right) for the long journey home. I very much hope to be back before long.

**Follow Up (Weiterverfolgung)**

Very helpfully, all the presentations...
have been made available online via the BIB Opus Publikationsserver (http://www.bib-info.de/verband/publikationen/opus.html). This has enabled me not only to revisit presentations, but also to browse those others that there was no time to attend during the Congress itself.

This is a super resource, and a great way to develop a more extensive knowledge of German vocabulary in the context of my profession. Further browsing has led me to previous years’ presentations, still stored on the server; following the IFLA search results, for example, has provided even more information about ethics, welcoming migrants, and the huge benefits of linking globally as librarians. This is indeed proving to be a valuable source of peer-mediated professional expertise and experience.

Since the Congress, I have found myself coming back to Bibliothek & Information International (BII) to glean further information about German libraries. The flyer featured on the BII website, “Welcome to Germany – Libraries as Hosts”, has led me to discover both the German Libraries Portal and the Kompetenznetzwerk for Bibliotheken (KnB - Network of Excellence for Libraries), which I am
looking forward to exploring further.  
[http://www.bi-international.de/download/file/knb_englisch_flyer_05.pdf](http://www.bi-international.de/download/file/knb_englisch_flyer_05.pdf)  
[http://www.bibliotheksportal.de/](http://www.bibliotheksportal.de/)

Having taken away several business cards from the Congress, my intention is to liaise further with colleagues, to learn more about their own libraries in general, to foster a working relationship with some in particular, and with one or two people, to develop firm friendships. One of these will be from the UK, several will be German, and a couple may be further afield, even American!

**Conclusion (Abschluss)**

To conclude, I really hadn’t expected so many boxes to be ticked at this Kongress.

From my own personal goals (the German language and making acquaintances), to local aims (forging new working relationships and bringing back workable ideas to implement in my own library), to national (representing ILIG) and global (the community of librarians worldwide). It was a privilege to attend.

My grateful thanks are extended to the team at Bibliothek & Information International, and especially to Susanne Riedel, as well as my colleagues at CILIP ILIG, for their support.

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**CILIP ILIG on Facebook**

If you’re on Facebook, why don’t you join us?  
[www.facebook.com/groups/13131232426](http://www.facebook.com/groups/13131232426)  
Make contact with librarians around the world and start networking!
Somaliland National Library Appeal

Please Help Give the Gift of Learning to

Somaliland Children

Ahmed Elmi
Director of the Somaliland National Library Project

I am appealing to you today on behalf of the Somaliland National Library, a self-help initiative single-handedly undertaken and put up by Somalilanders of whom you may have never heard. This is a national project to give the gift of learning to the children of Somaliland, a country and a nation that are not officially recognised and therefore do not exist.

As with their country, this project has been realised with meagre yet generous donations from the people of Somaliland and from its diaspora to build and construct the main building. This first phase of the project will soon be complete and the ground floor of the library building will be finished within the next six weeks.

We are now ready for phase two to equip the library with the necessary IT systems and install the different types of basic furniture and fixtures. We seek and request your support and assistance as an individual, foundation, organisation or an authority in this endeavour.

Education is a right we all have and thus its provision is an obligation on every nation and every parent. We have the will but lack the means to do so. So we ask for your help.
The project’s home on the web is: http://www.snlibrary.org/

I am the conceptual founder of the project and its current implementation Director. Please contact me by email at khaadun@yahoo.co.uk. This is of national importance and significance and is therefore officially supported by and affiliated to the Ministry of Education of Somaliland.

The library is located at Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland Republic. For more info visit: http://somalilandgov.com

Coming together is a beginning
Keeping together is a progress
Working together is a SUCCESS

Notes for contributors to Focus

Articles for publication in Focus are always welcome. Focus is not peer-reviewed, and articles are primarily intended to keep readers (who are professionals from a variety of different types of library and information services) informed about what is going on in the international library and information world, to introduce new ideas and programmes, report on activities and experiences, etc., rather than be ‘academic treatises’.

Articles are normally between 1,500 and 2,000 words, though can be a little longer if necessary. The inclusion of references and URLs/links to further information is valuable, as are relevant photos (640 × 480 at 300dpi), if appropriate.

Focus is published in March, July and November.
Copy deadline is normally the end of January, May and September, respectively.

Please e-mail material for consideration to the editor at iligfocus@cilip.org.uk
Articles should normally not have been previously published, or be under consideration elsewhere.
Libraries, Information and History in Berlin
A CILIP Study Tour

Thursday 6 October 2016 to Sunday 9 October 2016

Through the work of the Professional Development Group, CILIP has partnered in developing a Study Tour. Examine the history, architecture and contemporary uses of Berlin’s libraries and the use, suppression and dissemination of information during its modern history.

Culture and arts prevail in Berlin, a place that does not forget its history and is simultaneously forward-looking. Due to its location and its prominent role in modern history, Berlin’s libraries are home to some of the richest, most important and rare collections in the world.

Its libraries are an essential part of the lives of Berlin’s citizens and indeed Berlin’s very history is enmeshed in its libraries. They have been subject to fascism, bombing and the effects of the Cold War. Today, they have become symbols of resistance and re-unification.

Tour leader
Ian Stringer, Chair of the International Library and Information Group of CILIP and a Committee Member of CILIP Yorkshire and Humberside Member Network, will lead the tour. He will be accompanied by his son, Paul Stringer, who is a fluent German speaker.

Book Now at http://www.jonbainestours.co.uk/tour/cultural-tour?tour=135!

To download a tour brochure and book a place: Visit Jon Baines Tours

Itinerary

6 October 2016 (Thursday) - Berlin:
Arrive in Berlin and transfer to the Arcotel John F Berlin Hotel.
Optional orientation walking tour of the area.
Talk: “Global Mobile Libraries”.
Welcome dinner in the evening

7 October (Friday) - Berlin:
Guided tour of Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Unter den Linden) and guided tour of Bundestag Library.
After lunch take a guided tour of Berlin City Library (Berliner Stadtbibliothek BStB) - Official library of the City and State of Berlin
8 October (Saturday) - Berlin:
Guided tour of the Reichstag and its Dome.
Visit the Stasi Museum for guided tour
In the afternoon take a walking tour examining literary history, the use and dissemination of information and political history, with visits including the Book Burning Monument.
Farewell dinner in the evening

9 October (Sunday) - Berlin:
Options to visit Museum Island (Pergamum Museum, Museum of German History, etc) which is walking distance from the hotel.
In the afternoon transfer to the airport for return flight home

Availability
This tour group is limited to twenty places.
It is open to members and non-members of CILIP but members will be given priority through reserved places.

CILIP ILIG has a twitter account:
@CILIP_ILIG

Follow us to get the latest updates on CILIP ILIG news and events, tweets from CILIP conference, news from CILIP and of international interest, and to communicate with us and let us know what you would like ILIG to do for you.
Alan, born in 1950, was educated at Oxford University and at what was then the North-West London Polytechnic. He met his wife Marion whilst studying at Oxford. They married in 1979 and had three children (Ruth, Paul and Daniel).

He started his professional career at Camden Libraries before moving on to work on the Merlin Project in the British Library. After working as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO) consultant, at the Institute of Development Studies, and the Tate Gallery, he joined Middlesex University in 1994 where in the words of William Masterson, former Director of Learning Resources, he was “instrumental in achieving a successful implementation of Dynix, Horizon, the new management system. He worked considerably beyond the normal scope of his post to achieve this.” He retired from Middlesex University in 2011, but was kept on as a consultant for two TEMPUS projects (see http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/), for which he had just received funding. He also continued as
chair of the Universal Decimilisation Consortium (UDC); the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ (IFLA) permanent United Nations International Machine Readable Catalogue (UNIMARC) committee; and a British Standards Institute committee.

Alan throughout his whole life had three passions: bus timetables, model railways, and travel. His daughter, Ruth, remembers as a child playing with a complex train set the family had in the attic at home. A former colleague of Alan’s at Middlesex University remembers that “his knowledge of public transport routes was second to none. I always knew who to speak to if I wanted to get anywhere”. During his life he had visited 70 countries, and worked in 50 different countries where papers were presented and/or where he was a consultant. This interest proved to be of value in his work at Middlesex University. William Masterson wrote: “A major contribution which Alan made to my service was in the range of his contacts, both within the UK and worldwide. He has enabled us to play an active role within a JISC-funded project.”

Ian Johnson, who worked with Alan on his last TEMPUS project: “His last major project was a result of his ability to see the whole of a problem and to find a solution. Alan had contributed to a TEMPUS project led by the Robert Gordon University (RGU) which had introduced library systems into some Syrian Universities, and had identified that the manpower education and training system there was inadequate to sustain further developments. As Alan had only recently completed a couple of projects improving the technical infrastructure in Armenia, he recognised that a similar challenge existed there, found additional partners in Georgia and Uzbekistan because the European Union was favouring multi-country projects, and brought in RGU to help introduce new Master’s Degrees in those countries.”

Since 2005 he was actively involved with the Commonwealth Fellowship scheme, whereby librarians from Commonwealth countries came to Britain to gain further experience within their fields in order to further their careers. He took both very seriously. Before he became seriously ill, he was trying to find other institutions that may host Commonwealth Fellows. He was highly regarded by a number of people whom he helped in this way. Sridevi Jetty from India wrote: “His great contributions towards Library and Information Science, may it be CDS/ISIS (an advanced non-numerical information storage and retrieval software) or CCF (Common Communication Format) is unforgettable”. Lanre Osaniyi from Nigeria wrote: “What a loss of a committed mentor, dear friend and an inspiration to me, and I believe, to many other Commonwealth fellows who interacted with him. His passion for his chosen career is contagious. He exhibited unparalleled love and care for us all, relentless in meeting our diverse needs as fellows.” Finally Sanjay Kataria wrote: “Dr Alan was my professional guide, friend, support and a wonderful person.
He was so kind and considerate and we always welcomed seeing him in India. We know that his passing will not only leave a void in our lives but in the hearts of all who knew him.”

Since 2004, Alan was an active member of the International Library and Information Group (ILIG) of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). When I joined the staff at Middlesex, he encouraged me also to rejoin the group and get on to the Committee. He frequently wrote articles for *Focus on International Library and Information Work* (the ILIG journal) and from time to time provided speakers for the Informals – for example by asking the Commonwealth Professional Fellows [http://www.csfp-online.org/countries.html](http://www.csfp-online.org/countries.html) to share their experiences.

Alan was a prodigious writer and over his lifetime wrote over a 100 articles and four books. The first article he wrote was in 1977, and was followed by many others on library automation systems and international library development. His first book, *Exchanging bibliographical data: MARC and other international trends*, which he co-authored with Ellen Gredley, was published in 1990 and won the Library Association Book of the Year prize. He was a recognised authority on the UNESCO CDS/ISIS system, and wrote a regular journal column about it. In 2014, he was awarded the degree of DProf. of Public Works by Middlesex University.

In 2013 he suffered a massive stroke from which he never fully recovered, although it was good to see the gradual and slow improvement. In 2012, Alan was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of CILIP for his work within the international field, and was able to come to CILIP with his wife Marion in 2014 to be presented with the award. We last saw him in March when he attended CILIP ILIG’s Annual General Meeting. It was good to see him being able to communicate with more ease than in the past. He died in his sleep of heart failure on 7 April 2016. For the last one and a half years after he was released from hospital, Marion, his wife, arranged for him to attend CILIP ILIG Committee meetings, and Informals, and to visit Middlesex University to see old colleagues: he really enjoyed these times.

Anna Jablkowska, with contributions and information from: Alan’s family, Nick Bevan, Vanessa Hill and William Masterson (Middlesex University), Ian Johnson (Robert Gordon University), and former Commonwealth Professional Fellows: Sridevi Jetty, Lanre Osaniyi, and Sanjay Kataria.

The Alan Hopkinson Memorial Fund for information professionals to be able to attend an international conference. To donate, cheques made payable to the International Library and Information Group, with *Alan Hopkinson Fund* written on the reverse and sent to ILIG treasurer Kathleen Ladizesky, Glantrisant, Trisant, Aberystwyth SY23 4RL or email Kathleen at ladizesky@hotmail.co.uk for details if you wish to make a bank transfer.
I entered the wonderful world of libraries in 1993 when I started as a part time library assistant at Hawick Library in the Scottish Borders. Prior to that point I had worked mainly in sales behind the scenes at Pringle of Scotland and as a sales assistant with Dorothy Perkins.

Once in the library door, I progressed to senior library assistant and realising this was a wonderful opportunity I began to study for an Information Studies Masters degree via distance learning through Northumbria University graduating in 2005. By that point I had moved jobs to become fulltime branch librarian at Kelso Library. During my time at Kelso, I undertook several projects including...
gaining £10,000 Awards for All funding for a library garden. Despite being a lot of hard work it reaped great rewards as reading could take place outdoors, fantastic fun children’s events were held and best of all one of our staff who had moved south returned to be married in the garden.

Kelso Library was then integrated with the Scottish Borders Council Customer services department and I transferred to library headquarters in Selkirk to be a Communities Librarian. This involves organising events, liaising with community groups to establish links, speaking to groups about the library service and being responsible for five branch libraries. I chartered in 2007 and in 2012 I joined the then Career Development Group (CDG) as Candidate Support Officer (CSO) for Scotland. This voluntary role involves organising and facilitating Portfolio Registration courses. I also support candidates whose submissions have failed by reviewing their portfolios and looking at ways they could be amended to meet criteria.

In 2015 I received an email encouraging people to join the ILIG committee. I thought this would be a very interesting committee to join as I am one of these sad librarians who visits libraries wherever I am! After emailing to express an interest I was invited to attend the next meeting in London. At the meeting I volunteered to look after the hosts database which entails matching up CILIP members and international colleagues who are willing to host, for a day or two, a fellow library and information worker who is visiting their city or region. It has been very interesting reviewing the list of hosts and matching people to destinations. I will be getting a taste of what it is like to host when Avis Holder the 2016 winner of the Anthony Thompson award comes to stay during her trip to the UK. We have arranged a visit to the National Library of Scotland where the very helpful staff have organised a behind the scenes tour for Avis.

I consider it is important to give something back to the profession and I hope I accomplish this with my ILIG committee and CSO roles.

Ruth Lyle MSc MCLIP

CILIP ILIG Conference Bursary
The CILIP ILIG Committee took the decision to replace the International Grants which were discontinued in 2015 with a bursary to assist an ILIG member attend an international library and information conference. Awarding the bursary should tie into the Sustainable Development Goals of CILIP. The total amount available will be £500 per annum and full details on when this will be available will be advertised in the near future.

CILIP ILIG Committee
It was a great pleasure to welcome Chibo Msengezy to our Committee meeting in March as an observer from Phi Ahila in South Africa.
The Committee have, with regret, seen a number of members leaving recently and we say farewell and thanks for their hard work to David Clover, Lee Houghton and the late Alan Hopkinson (see obituary in this issue). We have recently welcomed Ruth Lyle and Susan Appleby to the Committee, both from Scotland, but we really need even more new members on the Committee since a number of long serving members are due to retire in 2017.

The duties of a CILIP SIG committee member are set out in the wording of the CILIP General Regulations Appendix F Part 2 – Special Interest Group Rules (Revised and adopted 18 February 2015 these Group Rules replace all previous editions). To read the February 2015 Group Rules, and the three tiers of CILIP governance which come above them, use the link http://www.cilip.org.uk/how-cilip-works/constitutional-documents. Even if you, yourself, are not thinking of applying to join the CILIP ILIG Committee, by familiarising yourself with the Group Rules, and CILIP governance as a whole, you can check that CILIP and its SIGs are doing what they are supposed to do!

Please contact Anna Jablkowska, our Secretary at ilig@cilip.co.uk if you are interested.
IFLA-FAIFE statement on the continuing detention of the Director of the Library of Ukrainian Literature

In November 2015 IFLA-FAIFE\(^1\) published a statement expressing concern over the targeting of the Library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow. The Director, Natalya Sharina had been arrested and charged on suspicion of inciting hatred or animosity towards a social group by allegedly holding banned books in the Library. Natalya was subsequently arrested, and then placed under house arrest.

Since then Natalya has been charged with gross embezzlement and she remains under house arrest.

IFLA believes that libraries and librarians have a key role in supporting human rights, including freedom of access to information and freedom of expression, and an attack on libraries or librarians is an attack on democracy and culture. It regards the treatment of the Library of Ukrainian Literature, and its staff – and in particular Natalya Sharina - as completely disproportionate and unnecessary.

Donna Scheeder, President of IFLA, has now written to the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, and the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation calling for the release of Natalya from house arrest, and for the cessation of all legal action.

IFLA-FAIFE will continue to monitor developments in Russia and is happy to offer its support to Natalya Sharina and her colleagues at the Library of Ukrainian Literature.

Source: IFLA Website [http://www.ifla.org/node/10488](http://www.ifla.org/node/10488)

Publishing Centres – an international project
A Message from Jukka Pennanen

I am involved with a new library development project in the neighbouring city of our capital in Vantaa and we have started a partner search for it. The project is called Libraries as Publishing Centers for Local and Small Editions Literature. It is quite a big scale project that includes six partnering libraries from different countries. We were thinking of the UK as an interesting partner. I would be happy if you could help me with contacts that could find this interesting. I happened to know very few Brits from public libraries that I could write to, hopefully you know more. We have already started negotiations with some great libraries from the Continent.

What we are actually planning is a joint project, the idea of which is to generate new and stable functionality in libraries to support them as active and living spaces for local storytelling.

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\(^1\)The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions/Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression.
and dissemination of knowledge. As we can clearly see, all kinds of business models are in radical turbulence, and we believe that now is the right time for the library to reform its business in order to maintain that vital role that it has in guaranteeing the stability in society. We see publishing as a challenge to break through the boundaries that libraries have been set to without having to reject the essence or the core of the library, the literature. This may even be of importance to the economy of libraries.

So we are officially inquiring interest in the project partnership along with four or five other international partners. Most, if not all, will be libraries. The time span for the project will be from two (2) to four (4) years and we will be applying funding from the EU Creative Europe 2014/2020 program. Links to additional information related to Creative Europe will be found on the description sheet attached. We have consulted the local Creative Europe Desk in Helsinki about approval opportunities of our application. According to them, the project has a good chance of getting funding. Even though it is not a guarantee, it gives us the confidence to try.

I am happy to talk more about this or to send additional information, including a short description of the project. The time frame for partner decisions is from May to the end of July 2016. You can share this message as you see the best.

Thanks a lot!
Jukka Pennanen, Project coordinator (Libraries as Publishing Centers) Email: jukka@pennanen.net, Tel. +35840 1912191 Skype: jaksux, Google: jp7439, Address: Vallesmannintie 44b, 00750 Helsinki. Finland

Egypt

Will a mobile library drive Egyptian kids to read?
More than 50 children in the village of Arab Shams in the Sharqiyyah governorate found out that Tales Ride, a bus that drives through Egypt to give free books to children, was going to visit their village on May 17. The children were excited about attending an interesting storytelling session run by the owner of the vehicle, English teacher Haitham al-Sayyed.

Read more:

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
ILIG INFORMALS AND MEETINGS

CILIP ILIG/EUROLIS
Tuesday 12 July to Friday 26 August 2016
Eurotoolbox 2016/17
This collection of the best books for children and young adults published in 2015
will be on display in Brighton Jubilee Children’s Library
https://eurolis.wordpress.com/

A CILIP Study Tour
Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 October 2016
Libraries, Information and History in Berlin
Through the work of the Professional Development Group, CILIP has partnered in developing a study
tour to examine the history, architecture and contemporary uses of Berlin’s libraries and the use,
suppression and dissemination of information during its modern history.
For full details, see advert in this issue or at:
http://www.cilip.org.uk/events/libraries-information-history-berlin

CILIP ILIG Committee Meeting
Wednesday 12 October 2016, 13.30–17.00
CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE
CILIP ILIG members are very welcome as observers, please notify the
Secretary Anna Jablkowska email: ilig@cilip.org.uk

Eurolis/CILIP ILIG Seminar
Friday 25 November 2016, 09.30 - 16.30
Libraries and Human Rights
Goethe Institut, 50 Princes Gate
Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PH
Save this date
Fuller details in this issue

Keep up to date with CILIP ILIG via its web pages at www.cilip.org.uk/ilig