

IFLA ROUND TABLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Annual Report
(September 1, 1998 through August 31, 1999)

Scope Statement

The Round Table for the Management of Library Associations (RTMLA) addresses the interests, aspirations and concerns of the library associations represented among IFLA members and library association representatives attending IFLA meetings. There is a continuum of resources available to library associations: some have paid staff and others are run by volunteers, both possessing a wide range of experience and expertise. The RTMLA addresses the needs and interests of all types and sizes of library associations.

The RTMLA brings together elected leaders, staff and representatives of these associations to foster and improve leadership skills; share experiences; develop useful publications and to offer workshops, seminars and programs that address their needs and interests; support IFLA's Core Programs; and advocate within IFLA for the promotion and development of effective library and library association practices worldwide.

Membership

The RTMLA Executive Committee has 20 members, of which 4 are Corresponding members. There are also 3 associations awaiting approval to the Executive Committee, 15 Association members and 2 non-classified members.

Officers

David R. Bender, Ph.D., Special Libraries Association, 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA Phone: +1-202-234-4700 FAX: +1-202-265-9317 E-mail: david-b@sla.org continued as Chair through August, 1999.

Christina Stenberg, Sveriges Allmänna Biblioteksforening/Swedish Library Association, Box 3127, 103 62 Stockholm, SWEDEN Phone: 468-545-132-30 FAX: 468-545-132-31 E-mail: christina.stenberg@sab.se was elected Chair to serve the 1999-2001 term.

Arlene Cohen, Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives, University of Guam, RFK Library UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923, USA Phone: +1-671-735-2345 FAX: +1-671-734-6882 E-mail: acohen@uog9.uog.edu continued as Secretary and was reelected to serve the 1999-2001 term.

Roger Parent, American Association of Law Libraries, 53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 940, Chicago, IL 60604, USA Phone: +1-312-939-4764 FAX: +1 312 431-1097 E-mail: rparent@aall.org continued as Treasurer and was reelected to serve the 1999-2001 term.

Information Coordinator

Duane Webster, Association of Research Libraries 21 Dupont Circle NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Phone: +1-202-296-2296 FAX: +1-202-872-0884 E-mail: duane@cni.org continued as Information Coordinator and will continue in this role.

Meetings

There have been two RTMLA meetings this year.

The 37th meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Washington, D.C. on March 4-6, 1999, with 10 members present. The 38th meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Bangkok, Thailand on August 21 and continued on August 27, 1999, with 13 Executive Committee members and ten guests present.

Projects

Library Association Resource Kit: The brochure, *Expanding Advocacy in the Library Community: A Guide for Developing Government Relations without Borders* was the first of several that are planned for publication with funding from this project. Others will be based on chapters from the outdated UNESCO/RTMLA *Guidelines for the Management of Professional Associations in the Fields of Archives, Library and Information Work*. These brochures and other published papers will form the final product content of this project.

Twining/Mentoring Project: This project took on a new direction with Tore Andersen (Norway) attempting to solicit information from library associations currently involved in twining or mentoring projects. At the end of this reporting year, no information had been received. Future plans for creating a document consisting of guidelines on how to start a twining/mentoring project and examples of successful projects are being considered.

Changing Structure of IFLA Membership Fees: In March 1999, a letter was sent to the IFLA President from the RTMLA asking IFLA to explore options that would enable emerging library associations and institutions in the developing world to join and participate in IFLA. A response dated March 17, 1999 was received from Sjoerd Koopman, on behalf of Christine Deschamps, confirming receipt of the letter and stating "IFLA would like to come back to it and respond to the ideas in your letter, but would like to involve our new Secretary General." At the end of this reporting year, the RTMLA has had no further communications with IFLA.

Faltering Library Associations: Norma Amenu-Kpodo's survey was completed and the final document, *Report on the Survey on National Library Associations*, was distributed to the RTMLA Executive Committee. An extract of the report was published in the *RTMLA Newsletter*, Vol. 22, April 1999. A workshop with this survey as the foundation is being planned for the 66th IFLA Conference in Jerusalem, August 2000.

History of the RTMLA: Russell Bowden's project is progressing. During this past year, he was in London gathering information and a draft was promised by February 2000.

Directory of Library Associations: Since the information collected several years ago by Karen Muller (USA) for a directory of library associations is now outdated, the RTMLA is looking at other

ways of providing library association information. One possibility is establishing hyper- links between the IFLANET RTMLA home page and home pages of library associations. Another issue the RTMLA is considering is how to possibly support library associations without the resources or means to develop their own WWW pages.

Publications

RTMLA Newsletter One issue (Vol. 22, April 1999) was published in this report period. Duane Webster (Association of Research Libraries) continued as the Editor

RTMLA Brochure, 1999 edition.

Expanding Advocacy in the Library Community: A Guide for Developing Government Relations without Borders, IFLA RTMLA, 1998. The text of this brochure was reprinted in the RTMLA Newsletter, Vol. 22, April 1999.

RTMLA Procedures Manual, compiled by David Bender, RTMLA Chairman, August 1999.

Byrne, Alex. "Library Associations and Intellectual Freedom." Paper presented at the 65th IFLA *FAIFE Workshop* co-sponsored by the RTMLA. Bangkok, Thailand, August 26, 1999. Internet URL: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla65/papers/147-152e.htm>

Cohen, Arlene. "The Management and Development of Library Associations in Asia and Oceania Strategies for Success -- PIALA: A Case Study." Paper presented at the 65th IFLA RSCAO/RTMLA joint workshop *Common Problems, Different Solutions: Managing Library Associations in Developing Countries*. Bangkok, Thailand, August 26, 1999. Internet URL: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla65/papers/128-161e.htm>

Conference Programs

There was a Open Session, one full day workshop and one half day workshop at the 65th IFLA Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Open Session was held on August 25, 1999 with the theme *Association Strategies for Success*. The session opened with Duane Webster (USA) speaking about building coalitions or consortiums with other associations or groups with similar goals to accomplish mutual objectives or address financial issues. His presentation was followed by Carla Funk (USA) discussing issues in downsizing and outsourcing some of an association's operational activities. Leacy O'Brien (Canada) then discussed how an association might reinvent itself. The session closed with a group discussion and was attended by about 40 participants.

An RSCAO/RTMLA joint full-day workshop on the Management and Development of Library Associations in Developing Countries was entitled *Common Problems, Different Solutions: Managing Library Associations in Developing Countries* and was held on August 26, 1999. The morning session, chaired by RSCAO Secretary Rashidah Begum (Malaysia) and introduced by Russell Bowden (Sri Lanka), was attended by about 60 participants. In the first paper, Peter J. Lor (South Africa) discussed principles of library association organization, followed by three case studies in the stages of development of library association presented by P. E. Harrison Perera of the

Sri Lanka Library Association, Betsie Kaltabang from the Vanuatu Library Association and Graciela Dacosta from the Uruguay Library Association. The papers then turned to strategies for success with U Thaw Kaung describing how the Myanmar Library Association was successfully established and Arlene Cohen (Guam) presenting some strategies for success in the Pacific Islands context. The morning session ended with a paper by Mohd. Sharif Mohd. Saad (Malaysia) on fund raising. The afternoon session, chaired by RSCAO Chairman Amelia McKenzie (Australia), focused on library advocacy strategies and had about 40 participants. It began with a lively discussion and brainstorming session on the meaning of advocacy and broke into small working groups, with some RTMLA Executive Committee members actively involved in the groups.

The other RTMLA joint workshop was held in cooperation with IFLA's Committee for Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) on August 26, 1999. The theme of the half-day workshop was *Library Associations and Intellectual Freedom* and it drew over 60 participants. FAIFE Committee chairman Alex Byrne (Australia) along with committee members Yasuyo Inoue (Japan), Alexandra Horvat (Croatia), Driden Kunaka (Zimbabwe) and Russell Bowden (Sri Lanka) provided introductions to the discussion by giving examples of the status of intellectual freedom in their respective countries. A discussion followed, with people underlining the importance of library associations taking an active role in issues dealing with intellectual freedom. The group agreed that two achievements should be sought after. Initially, promoting the library and intellectual freedom issues as such, and then getting the "Freedom of Expression Organizations" to realize that library associations and libraries are possible partners. RTMLA Executive Committee member Tore Kr. Andersen underlined the responsibility of library associations to initiate debates within the other organizations on ethic and practical consequences of the new IFLA statement on *Libraries and Intellectual Freedom*.

Relationships with other Bodies

During this past year, the RTMLA has worked with the *Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania* (RSCAO) and the *Committee for Access to Information and Freedom of Expression* (FAIFE) to jointly sponsor the 65th IFLA 1999 Conference activities in Bangkok.

Other Events

The RTMLA received two new project proposals that were declined.

The proposal from Driden Kunaka (Zimbabwe), *Improving the Management of Library Associations in East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA)* was considered a good idea; however, the cost and time factors were beyond the capabilities of the RTMLA.

Vladimir Zaitsev's (Russian Federation) proposal to translate and publish the proceedings of the joint RTMLA/Russian Library Association seminar held in St. Petersburg, Russia in April 1998 was also declined.

Author

Arlene Cohen, RTMLA Secretary
January 9, 2000