



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений
Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Bibliotecarios y Bibliotecas
国际图书馆协会与机构联合会

الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات ومؤسسات المكتبات

About IFLA

www.ifla.org

IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession.

IFLA provides information specialists throughout the world with a forum for exchanging ideas and promoting international cooperation, research, and development in all fields of library activity and information service. IFLA is one of the means through which libraries, information centres, and information professionals worldwide can formulate their goals, exert their influence as a group, protect their interests, and find solutions to global problems.

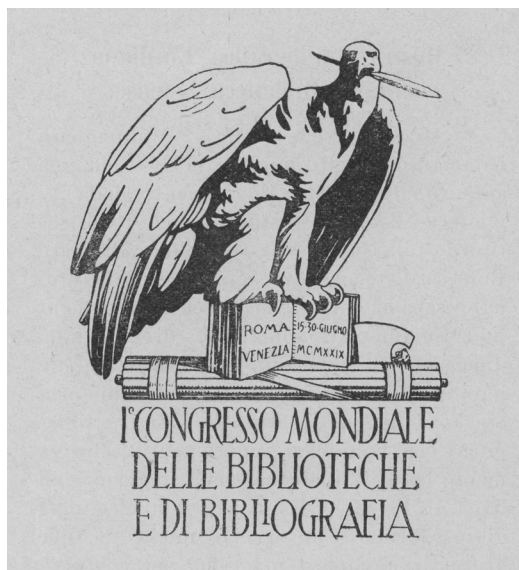
IFLA's aims, objectives, and professional programme can only be fulfilled with the co-operation and active involvement of its members and affiliates. Currently, approximately 1,600 associations, institutions and individuals, from widely divergent cultural back-grounds, are working together to further the goals of the Federation and to promote librarianship on a global level. Through its formal membership, IFLA directly or indirectly represents some 500,000 library and information professionals worldwide.

IFLA pursues its aims through a variety of channels, including the publication of a major journal, as well as guidelines, reports and monographs on a wide range of topics. IFLA organizes workshops and seminars around the world to enhance professional practice and increase awareness of the growing importance of libraries in the digital age. All this is done in collaboration with a number of other non-governmental organizations, funding bodies and international agencies such as UNESCO and WIPO. IFLANET, the Federation's website, is a prime source of information about IFLA, its policies and activities: www.ifla.org

Library and information professionals gather annually at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, held in August each year in cities around the world.

IFLA was founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1927 at an international conference of national library directors. IFLA was registered in the Netherlands in 1971. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Royal Library), the national library of the Netherlands, in The Hague, generously provides the facilities for our headquarters. Regional offices are located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Pretoria, South Africa; and Singapore.

IFLA Publications 155



85 Years IFLA: A History and Chronology of Sessions 1927–2012

Jeffrey M. Wilhite

De Gruyter Saur

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Foreword

This work records and celebrates the long and proud history of the world body for libraries and information services, known concisely and affectionately as ‘IFLA.’ At 85 years old this year, it is far from an octogenarian in or approaching retirement but, rather, a mature international organization, confident in its role and effective in its programs. It embodies the true spirit of ‘internationalism’ in its drive to promote the advancement of libraries and information services globally and to address the challenges faced by those organizations, we who work in them, and our clients.

That term, ‘internationalism’, has many meanings including the pedestrian “state or quality of being international” and the more specific “ideal or practice of cooperation and understanding between nations” (Collins, 848), which relates particularly to politics and diplomacy. At a broader level, internationalism describes the drive towards international cooperation across many fields and in many ways including discourse, standardization, collaborative ventures, and initiatives to try to ‘level the playing field’ across the world. Central to that drive has been the creation of an enormous variety of international organizations from the early humanitarian examples such as the International Committee of the Red Cross created in 1863 and those concerned with standards such as the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM: Bureau international des poids et mesures) established in 1875. International organizations include those of the United Nations system, other international governmental bodies such as the World Bank and a host of international nongovernmental organizations.

IFLA is a particular type of international nongovernmental organization, an international professional association. From its establishment in 1927, IFLA has expressed the aspirations and international outlook of librarians. They came from many countries, including far distant Australia, by ship and train to participate, to learn, to share, and to promote international understanding and collaboration. Through their work an understanding of ‘international librarianship’ developed which is more than area studies or comparative analysis of practice, but which expresses an ethos of internationalism that is open, collaborative, and built around deeply felt values.

In this valuable work, Jeffrey M. Wilhite traces the history of IFLA through its records of its meetings and activities, taking the reader in summary form through a chronology of the Federation’s ‘Sessions’ or Conferences from the first, establishment, meeting held in 1927, to the 2011 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico and looking forward to this year’s meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

There are many points at which the ethos of the Federation and its members come through. Notable moments included the concerns expressed by President Marcel Godet in 1938 about the destruction of libraries during the Spanish Civil War and the Japanese invasion of Manchuria and his reluctant agreement to continue as President in place of Wilhelm Munthe who had refused to serve if it required “fraternizing with Nazism” during the planned 1940 conference in Germany. That conference did not eventuate because of the Second World War, Munthe assuming the presidency at the first post war meeting in Oslo, Norway, in 1947. Demonstrating his deep humanity and commitment to professional principles, Munthe subsequently advocated the reconstruction of German libraries and their readmittance to IFLA on the eve of the Cold War. IFLA managed to continue as a united body through those decades of international tension despite very difficult periods especially in 1968 when the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia. It demonstrated a capacity to continue to promote international understanding and professional cooperation across the divides of language, culture, and politics.

But concerns to overcome those divides and the great divide of national wealth have characterized the history of IFLA. The 1984 establishment of the Action for Development through Libraries Program (ALP) signaled the international library community’s commitment to development and the 1997 creation of the dual Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) and Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) demonstrated the commitment to access to information unhindered by regulatory, political or other barriers. Those strongly held and strongly expressed values were forcefully conveyed during IFLA’s very successful interventions in the World Summit on the Information Society and at its two summit meetings in 2003 and 2005.

These themes and more can be seen in this work. The shared values, the strong commitments to equity and to collaboration, the drive for understanding and unity, and the spirit of sharing are all evident, as they are at every IFLA meeting. Jeffrey M. Wilhite has compiled a most valuable record of the work of IFLA since the time of steam trains and telegraphs to today’s world of rapid air travel, instantaneous communication and global information access. There is much more to be done but the history of IFLA presented in this volume demonstrates that the global library and information community has the will and unity to address today’s and tomorrow’s challenges.

Alex Byrne
IFLA President 2005-2007
Sydney, Australia

Acknowledgments

It all began, as it always has, with Miss Carroll. I met Dr. Frances Laverne Carroll in 1995 at our home institution of the University of Oklahoma (OU), Norman, Oklahoma, US. She was Faculty Emerita, having taught at the OU Library School since 1963, and I was a newly hired faculty librarian. We went to lunch and she mentioned IFLA to me; she was involved with it, and asked if I had ever heard of it. I had, but only marginally. Being the Government Documents Librarian for OU, I managed US Federal, State of Oklahoma, and international document collections. Once she found out I worked with international information that was all she needed before she decided I should follow in her footsteps and become active in IFLA also. I was quick to find out when Dr. Carroll got an idea, you really just better step out of the way and let her work.

Dr. Carroll attended her first IFLA Conference in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1968, the year I was born. Her last IFLA Conference was Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2004, thirty-six years later, which we attended together. She did not participate in every Conference during this time, but she attended most in her almost four-decade long relationship with IFLA. In her first years with IFLA, in the early 1970s, she worked with the school libraries committees, and was the Chairperson of the Section of School Libraries, and later the Chairperson of the Planning Group for School Library Work. During the mid-1970s, she presented at two different Conferences, and worked on the 1978 UNESCO/IFLA contract *Guidelines for Planning an Organizing of School Library Media Centers*. During the late 1970s, she served on the Provisional Professional Board and wrote for the *IFLA Journal*. If you look on page 218 of this book, in the picture from the 1974 *IFLA Annual* of Session participants, there she is, dead center in the front row, as she liked to be.

It was Dr. Carroll that encouraged me to attend my first IFLA Conference, the 2001 IFLA Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, US. We attended together and she introduced me to her world of international librarianship. One of her friends I met at the Conference was Dr. Norman Horrocks of Dalhousie University Library School, Nova Scotia, Canada, and Scarecrow Press. On Dr. Carroll's recommendation, there at the Conference, he offered me the opportunity to write the follow-up to Josephine Metcalfe Smith's 1968 Scarecrow Press title, *A Chronology of Librarianship*. This volume covered the beginning of the Christian era to 1959. The idea that Norman had was for me to do a companion piece to this volume, covering, well, most everything that had happened in librarianship since Smith's book. I agreed happily.

In the interim that it took me to write this book, Dr. Carroll and I traveled to Glasgow, Scotland, UK, for the 2002 IFLA 75th Conference, to Berlin,

Germany, for the 2003 Conference, and to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the 2004 Conference. After this Dr. Carroll ceased traveling and I put my nose to the grindstone to finish the book. It was during this period, in the hardscrabble part of research, that I realized that there was not an adequate volume on the history of IFLA; I could not locate a resource to give me the information that I wanted for my book. Now, granted, there were many fine short histories, but what was lacking was a full, bold chronology of the organization.

In July 2009, Scarecrow Press published my book, *A Chronology of Librarianship, 1960-2000*. Directly after this I began working on the book about IFLA that I had wanted for my previous research. I attended the 2009 IFLA Milan, Italy, Conference (the actual 75th Conference), and the 2011 San Juan, Puerto Rico, Conference and afterwards set about to complete the book you now hold.

In February 2011, IFLA published this book, *A Chronology of IFLA Sessions, 1927-2009*, on the recently developed IFLA History Corner website (http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/history/chronology_wilhite.pdf). After this publication, there were discussions with IFLA and De Gruyter Saur for me to expand the volume and have it published as one of the green-backed *IFLA Publications* Series volumes. Thus the current book you hold incorporates my *A Chronology of IFLA Sessions, 1927-2009*, as well as a new extensive introductory history and a number of new edits, additions, and updates of the original material to 2012.

I would like to very much thank Miss Carroll for all the opportunities she has presented me over the years, and for just being my friend. I hope I have made you proud Laverne.

Thanks also goes to my home institution, the University of Oklahoma, particularly the Bizzell Memorial Library, for the time to produce this volume. Additionally my staff in the Government Documents Department, including Vicki Michener and Melanie Lim, need to be thanked for their assistance and perseverance. Brian Shults in the University Libraries Digitizing and Copying Center also deserves my thanks for his help with the photographic illustrations. I would also like to thank the University of Oklahoma Office of the Vice President for Research for their support.

I would also like to point out a personal connection I discovered during my research: Carl Milam, one of the original 1927 IFLA founders and signers of the final Resolution that established the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA), called my home institution his alma mater and, in fact, began his illustrious library career at the University of Oklahoma Library. I had no idea of this fact until I was well into the research and was thrilled to discover it. This realization brought me personally closer to the subject matter and gave power to the fact that one lone Oklahoma librarian could have an effect on international librarianship.

And, again, as always, thank you Daniel Price.

Preface

This volume is in two major parts – Part One: Introductory History and Part Two: Chronology of Sessions, 1927-2012. These are followed by a Bibliography, Appendices, a Name Index, and About the Author.

Part One: Introductory History

Throughout the last 85 years, there have only been a handful of articles about the history of IFLA, and even fewer books on the topic. One of the best and most well-known books about the Federation is Willem R. H. Koops and Joachim Wieder's *IFLA's First Fifty Years*, produced in honor of IFLA's 50th birthday in 1977. A lesser known but equally useful volume that focuses on the early years of the organization is Johanna de Vries' 1976 Master's Thesis, *The History of the International Federation of Library Associations, From its Creation to the Second World War, 1927-1940*. The 75th Anniversary pamphlet disseminated at the 2002 Glasgow, Scotland, UK, Conference, by Carol Henry and Donald G. Davis, Jr., also added to this cannon of IFLA history.

More so than books, there have been a number of articles produced over the years that equally add volume to the history of the Federation. An impressive 1962 article is by Edith Scott, "IFLA and FID-History and Programs," from the *Library Quarterly* (volume 32, no. 1). Peter Harvard-Williams wrote a larger general survey with his 1977 "The History of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions," in the *UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries* (volume 31, no. 4). More recently, Harry Campbell published two fine historical pieces in the 2002 *IFLA Journal* (volume 29, no. 3). The first was "IFLA's First Fifty Years: A Reprise," which took extracts from Joachim Wieder's introductory chapter from *IFLA's First Fifty Years*, which Wieder also edited. The second article, "IFLA: Library Universality in a Divided World" updated the previous article through 2001.

As the internet has added an entirely new dimension to research, it has also presented a number of useful websites about the history of IFLA. The most useful pages are the ones produced by IFLA itself, including: <http://archive.ifla.org/III/75ifla/75index.htm>, which gives a brief history of the organization, complete with photos. Also of considerable use are the IFLA websites that list the past conferences (<http://www.ifla.org/en/annual-conference/past>) as well as the sites that cover IFLA's past publications (<http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla-publications>), and the recently developed IFLA History Corner (<http://www.ifla.org/en/history>).

The introduction melds all of these elements and resources to produce a thorough overview of IFLA over the last 85 years, 1927-2012.

Part Two: The Chronology of Sessions, 1927-2012

The Chronology of Sessions is based on the methodology of my book, *A Chronology of Librarianship, 1960-2000* (Scarecrow Press, 2009), which was based on the methodology of Josephine Metcalfe Smith's *A Chronology of Librarianship* (Scarecrow Press, 1968), with some variation. This section presents historical data as found in library literature, including some that may be in fact dubious and need to be further verified by additional research. As per the subject matter, the core resources I utilized were IFLA produced volumes, including *IFLA Actes* (1927-1968), *IFLA Annual* (1969-2006), *IFLA Repertoire* (1931-1968), *IFLA Directory* (1971-present), *IFLA News* (1962-1974), *IFLA Journal* (1975-present), and the current IFLA website. To supplement these sources, I also consulted pertinent library journals (*Libri*, *Library Journal*, *Library Quarterly*, *UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries*, etc.) as well as books on the topic (Wedgeworth's *World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services*, Wiegand and Davis' *Encyclopedia of Library History*, etc.).

The value of this Chronology lies in its variety. In it you can find specific data on each of the IFLA Sessions 1927-2012, and thus the workings of IFLA itself, chronologically compiled unlike any other source. You can use this book to research the themes, attendance, or topics covered at each of the first 85 Sessions. You can use this book to find information on one year specifically, information for a decade, or data on all 78 of the IFLA Sessions in the first 85 years of IFLA's history. You can use this book to find data evidently replicated in other volumes, such as the yearly listing of the theme of each Session, as listed in the *IFLA Directory*. But you can also use this book to find data that has heretofore not been compiled into one source, such as attendance, speakers, and host location of each Session.

In following *A Chronology of Librarianship, 1960-2000*, this work does not establish dates, only reports them where found. Following the initial entry for each item there is presented, in parentheses, a citation; this is the source of the date under which an occurrence is entered. Each entry is followed by a coded citation. These citations are referenced in the Bibliography that occurs after the Chronological Tables.

The coded citations work as follows: (Dale, ix-x) refers to a citation on pages ix-x of: Dale, Doris Cruger, *Carl H. Milam and the United Nations Library*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1976. Annuals are listed similarly: (IFLA, *Actes* XXII, 3) refers to a citation in the 22nd volume, pages 3 of: International Federation of Library Associations, *Actes du Comité International des Bibliothèques*. The Hague, The Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff, 1932-1968.

Periodicals are listed thus: (*IFLA Journal* 79, vol. 5, no. 2, 301) refers to the 1979 year, volume 5, number 2, page 301 of: International Federation of Library Associations, *IFLA Journal*. Munich, Germany: Verlag Dokumentation, 1975-2004.

Internet citations are referenced the same, with the addition of the date the webpage was accessed: (*IFLA, World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA Council and General Conference, August 23-August 27, 2009, Milan, Italy, Conference Program and Proceedings*) refers to: International Federation of Library Associations, *World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA Council and General Conference, August 23-August 27, 2009, Milan Italy, Conference Program and Proceedings*.<http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/programme2009-en.php> (accessed 4/22/10). For all citations that are published by IFLA and have IFLA as the first word of the title, the author has been dropped. In other words, (*IFLA Annual* 1975, 25) refers to: International Federation of Library Associations, *IFLA Annual*: Munich, Germany: Verlag Dokumentation, 1972-1995.

Each yearly listing is divided into 24 categories. These categories are as follows:

- Title of the session, including the country and city where it was held, and the dates it was held
- The theme of the Session
- The number of Session meetings, as well as what type of meetings were held (Open, Professional, Poster Session, etc.)
- The number of Workshops (pre and post), and what they were themed
- The number of participants who attended the Session and how many countries they represented
- The IFLA Secretary General
- The IFLA Vice-President(s)
- The IFLA President
- What the IFLA President said in his/her opening remarks to the Session
- The dignitaries or keynote speakers who addressed the Session
- General Session topics
- UNESCO Session topics
- FID Session topics
- Session paper topics
- Poster Session entries
- What conferences IFLA had been represented at in the past year
- Report recommendations and announcements from committee work during Session
- Business topics (about IFLA's internal operations)
- Treasurer's report
- General comments about IFLA at the time (division of membership, etc.)

- Exact location of the Session, as well as details about the social events and post-Session excursions
- IFLA membership numbers
- New members to IFLA this year
- Where the Session proceedings were recorded
- Other significant IFLA publications

Not every year has something in each category, especially in the early years when the Sessions were much shorter and less intensive. Many of these themes did not begin until later in IFLA's life, such as the Poster Session which did not begin at Session until 1988. Sometimes, I simply could not find the information for one of the entries, even though I had found it for all of the surrounding years. Some examples of this are: in 1947, I could not locate the number of IFLA members; in 1964, in the listing of conferences IFLA had been represented at, I could not locate any places or dates of the listed conferences; in 1977, I could not locate the number of attendees at the Session; and in 1999, I could not locate the names of any of the Poster Session entries. In these instances, the entries simply are not included or, in the case of new IFLA members, there is a note of: "IFLA did not publish lists of new members this year." One would guess that with the advent of the internet this type of information would be easy to locate, but I did not find this to be true. An outstanding example of this is that the 1998 *IFLA Annual Report* is not available online anywhere, on the IFLA website, the archived IFLA website (<http://archive.ifla.org/>) or otherwise, even though the rest of the *IFLA Annual Reports*, 1996-2011, are all available, full text online, from the IFLA website.

Throughout editing this volume, many specific editorial decisions had to be made. The Americanized spellings have been chosen over the European spellings, the most common of which changed all of the 'catalogues' to 'catalogs,' 'programmes' to 'programs', and 'centres' to 'centers.' Even though the internet began its existence in the early 1990s with a capital "I," I opted to go with the lower-case "internet." I also had to realize 'Frankfurt' is in Germany and 'Frankfort' is in Kentucky, US.

One of the challenges of compiling this volume was determining when a citation was correct, especially when it was cited differently by noted authors. One example is the IFLA website that lists links to all of the past IFLA Conferences, 1993 forward (<http://www.ifla.org/en/annual-conference/past>). This lists the titles of all the listed IFLA Conferences as "World Library and Information Congresses." Through my research I realized that the title 'World Library...' actually did not begin to be used by IFLA until Berlin 2003, making the website information incorrect for the 1993-2002 entries. A decision had to be made, so I went with the correct (as I knew them) titles and informed IFLA their website titles were wrong.

There have also been instances where I had to remove good citations as I had been careless in my research and neglected to include a correct citation. An excellent example I had to remove was a citation from 1998 that I could not verify: “IFLA undertook a major mailing in spring 1998, in sending out the *IFLA Directory 1998-1999*, and the *IFLA Medium-Term Program 1998-2001*, to all members in more than 150 countries around the world.”

The editing process also turned up a few gems that are worth sharing. There was a 1947 citation where I described newly elected President Munthe: “Munthe belonged to the old IFLA guard and had become familiar with its needs, problems, and responsibilities. With his personality bearing the imprint of Anglo-Saxon and German culture, he was known to be an outstanding expert on American librarianship and the author of a much-appreciated book: *American Librarianship from a European Angel*.” On the second edit, I realized his book was actually titled, *American Librarianship from a European Angle*, which really brought the author back down to Earth. Another humorous edit was a 1994 citation I had recorded thus: “In his opening remarks, President Wedgeworth highlighted Cuba’s great successes in raising the general education level of its people and wiping out literacy throughout its own region.” It was not until I did a third or fourth complete edit that I realized it was ‘illiteracy’ that was wiped out, not ‘literacy.’

The point to this is that there will be errors on my part as well as on the part of the authors I cite, and for that I apologize now. I have made every effort to correct and repair these, but there will be inherent errors, inconsistencies, and flat-out mistakes. I welcome any comments to help me correct my work.

The Use of the Chronological Tables

The use of this book lies in its great variety. You can use this book to track changes in Conference themes, from the early themes, like the 1968 Frankfurt, Germany, theme of *Books and Libraries in an Industrial Society*, to the 2003 Berlin, Germany, theme of *Access Point Library-Information-Culture*. This book can be used to track the placement of the Session, from strictly European cities, to being hosted all over the world. You can use this book to track the magnificent locations where IFLA Session events have been hosted, including the Vatican, the Library of Congress, the Louvre, and the Sydney Opera House.

This book can be used to track the attendance at the different Sessions, from the first Session to break 100 attendees (Brussels, Belgium, in 1955), the least attended Conference in the last twenty-five years (Nairobi, Kenya, in 1984, with 1,000 participants), to the most well attended Session in the Federation’s history (2001 Boston, Massachusetts, US, with 5,300 attendees). This book can also be used to track the remarkable personages from history who have attended the Sessions, including Benito Mussolini and Pope Pius XI in

1929, King Baudouin of Belgium in 1977, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in 1979 and 1997, President Ferdinand and First Lady Imelda Marcos of the Philippines in 1980, their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan in 1986, the King and Queen of Sweden in 1990, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in 1999, and King Harald of Norway in 2005.

This book can also be used the track library trends across the years. In 1932, one of the topics of discussion was the continued worldwide financial crisis, where libraries were taking cuts to their hours and staffs while their circulation numbers continued to rise from the rush of use by the recently unemployed. How similar this is to the Great Recession of 2009, that left many unemployed and running to their libraries for free help, only to find these cash-strapped institutions having to close up many of their doors. In 1937, in his opening remarks, President Godet spoke of the basically indestructible power of the book in a period increasingly dominated by emerging mass media like radio and film. How familiar this is to the late 1990's and 2000's, as the internet replaced paper sources, with librarians left trying to save many of their paper collections.

My hope is that the volume you now hold will be as useful to you as it has been to me. I feel I have now written the book that I originally needed and wanted for my own research. I hope you find it as useful.

Note on the Photographs

The photographs in this volume come from two main sources. In Part One: Introductory History, the photographs of the Presidents and Secretaries General are drawn from the IFLA website. In Part Two: Chronology of Sessions, 1927-2012, the photos from the Sessions are drawn from either the *IFLA Actes* or the *IFLA Annual*. As these photos were only reproduced in these sources for the 1932-1976 sessions, that is the extent of the photographs that could be included herein.

Note on the Name Index

To assist in research there is a Name Index at the end of the volume. This index presents proper names, facts or occurrences, with a citation to a specific page number in the book. To note: not every proper name has been indexed. Proper names that occur more than twenty times were not typically indexed (e.g. 'IFLA', 'UNESCO,'). Additionally, city names were not indexed, rather just the corresponding country.

List of Abbreviations

ALA	American Library Association
ALA (year)	<i>ALA Bulletin</i>
AL (year)	<i>ALA's American Libraries</i>
DC	District of Columbia
Ed.	Editor
Eds.	Editors
EU	European Union
FID	International Federation for Documentation
GPO	Government Printing Office
i.e.	<i>id est</i>
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
IFLA (year)	<i>IFLA Journal</i>
LC	Library of Congress
LIS	Library and Information Studies
LJ (year)	<i>ALA's Library Journal</i>
MARC	Machine Readable Cataloging
OCLC	Online Computer Library Center
St.	Saint
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
US	United States
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Part One: Introductory History

Not only is IFLA the largest international library association in the world but it is also the leading body representing the interests of library and information services and their users today.¹ IFLA was founded September 30, 1927, at the Annual Meeting of the [UK] Library Association in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. The Federation began with fifteen members from fifteen different countries, and by 2012, on the 85th anniversary of this storied federation, IFLA boasted 1,500 members in 151 countries.² And through the good years and the war years, through expansions and depressions, from books to the internet and beyond, IFLA has continued to grow and expand with no limit to its future progress.

The idea of an international library organization began in earnest post-World War I, with the establishment of the League of Nations in 1920. In 1926, the head of the French Library Association presented a proposal to establish an international library federation, but it was not until 1927, at the Annual Meeting of the [UK] Library Association in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, that the idea was made official by a seven-person working group. On September 30, 1927, the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was officially formed. This Committee would later be renamed the International Federation of Library Associations, or IFLA, in 1929. Isak G. A. Collijn, Director of the Royal Library of Stockholm, Sweden, and Chairman of the seven-person working group, was elected first Chairman (later President).

The March 31, 1928, 1st Session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA) was held in Rome, Italy. The June 14, 1929, 2nd official Session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA) was held in Rome, Italy, in conjunction with the first International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography. By the end of the Session, the new body was formed, young and green, but formed.

The 1930's proved to be a time of growth and challenge for the new Federation. By mid-decade IFLA was a well-established body, with regular meetings, and had done much to give personal contact among the leading librarians of the world, without which an effective international collaboration in the field of librarianship was not possible.³ It was during these years that IFLA suffered from the perception that it was a gentleman's club, a reference to its smallness and informality in conducting business.⁴ And in reality in the pre-World War II years, IFLA did not produce very many tangible results. These were years of development, characterized by a steady growing number of members and attendance at meetings, by growing enthusiasm of the participants, showing in

the volume of the annual *Actes*, by more and more contributions from members on national accomplishments, and an increasing number of Subcommittees.⁵

The 1940's were a time of war for the world, as well as IFLA. IFLA disbanded in late 1940 and stayed that way until May 1946. There was behind the scenes work done to keep the organization alive, and help with the war effort, but there were no meetings or Sessions held during these seven years. At war's end, with the advent of UNESCO, libraries were finally given international direction after so many years of war. The first meeting of the IFLA Executive Board since the war began was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 1946. This meeting led to the 1947, 13th IFLA Session, in Oslo, Norway that officially restarted the Federation and its activities.

The IFLA of the 1950's closely resembled the tight-knit IFLA of the 1930's, but with some notable exceptions. Membership grew, but not exponentially as it did in later decades, and the organization continued to stay firmly planted in Europe. The *Statutes* were revised and long-term planning was added, but the structure remained basically as it had been since the Federation began in 1927. Funding increased, per the UNESCO subvention, but, again, not as grandly as many wanted. The Sessions progressed, with the highlight being the 1955 Third International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centers in Brussels, Belgium.

The biggest difference in IFLA of the 1950's and the earlier years was the Federation's interaction with the Documentalists. Starting in 1951, the IFLA Sessions began to be held alongside the FID Conferences. In 1954, in regards to this, President Bourgeois said, "Another very clear advantage of this collaboration, which has been accepted by all concerned with a certain hesitation and even reticence, will be to allow the...federations to know each other better, to delimit their field of action, and to round-off certain angles which hitherto have caused friction. Who knows – all hopes are permitted – perhaps we will ... learn at last where library science ends and where documentation begins."⁶ The advantages of these conjoined meetings included consolidating two international conference trips into one for attendees and allowing the head of each organization to address the other, drawing the two similar, yet different, federations closer.

The swinging 60's for IFLA was a period of great growth, with membership rising from 81 members in 1960 to 231 in 1969. This growth was a result of the 1964 change in the *Statutes* which created the new 'Associate' membership, opening IFLA up more to the world. This growth was reflected at Session, where more and more attendees began to participate, sometimes with deleterious results. This growth also necessitated more funding, which IFLA often, sadly, found lacking. Luckily by the end of the decade the finances had turned around and the Federation found itself in a stronger place than it had ever been. In the realm of milestones, the sixties had its share, including the

1961 Parisian International Conference on Cataloging Principles, the establishment of the first permanent Secretariat in 1962, the first Session theme in 1966, and the 1963 publication of President Hofmann's *Libraries in the World: A Long-Term Program for IFLA*, which signaled the Federation's turning point as a truly international organization on the world stage.

The decade of the 1970's birthed a number of firsts for IFLA. Not only did IFLA have its first female Secretary General, but also its first female President. At Session, the first pre-session was held as well as its first technology exhibit. But the overall expression of the 1970's for IFLA was a time of stupendous growth. IFLA began the decade in 1970 with 257 members and ended it in 1979 with 906! But this level of growth and increased internationally accepted role necessitated huge administration problems which called for a strengthening of the organization. For this reason the *Statutes* and the *Constitution* were both revised to accommodate this larger Federation. An offspring of this growth and development was a coordinated IFLA publishing program, with the *IFLA Directory* and *IFLA Journal* both premiering during the decade. But all was not clear sailing for IFLA during the 1970's, as rocky waters were hit when UNESCO briefly dropped its consultative status with IFLA over issues concerning South African Apartheid.

The 1980's were a time of geographic growth based on the internal organizational evolution of the Federation during the 1970's. After the restructuring of IFLA in 1976, the organization flourished and expanded, and did it ever, hosting its first Session in Asia, Africa, and Australia, all in a ten year period. Even though membership only grew marginally (966 members in 1980 to 1,265 in 1989), the Federation itself continued to grow internally. A number of new initiatives appeared in the 1980's, including the Universal Availability of Publications Program and the Advancement of Librarianship Program (ALP). But amid this growth there were still challenges, including in 1981 when China agreed to join only if IFLA dropped the membership of the Taiwanese associations.

The 1990's for IFLA, like the rest of the developed world, was driven by technological achievements that appeared at first divergent but eventually brought people all over the world together. In 1993, IFLA's website, IFLANET, was created and the Federation began using e-mail, and later the internet, to connect with the world. By decade's end, most of IFLA's work was being done online, including the publishing of documents and the organization of Sessions. In 1998, at the Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Opening Session, balls of colored yarn were tossed through the audience to "weave everyone into the Web."⁷ Indeed.

The 1990's were a time of some growth for IFLA, as membership increased marginally from 1,243 members to 1,623, but also a time of firsts. In 1994, a Session was first held in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1996, a Session was finally held in China. And in 1999, a Session was held in a devel-

oping country, Thailand, for the first time. The 1990's also saw the development of many internal funding mechanisms as well as the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Committee and six new Discussion Groups.

The opening of the new Millennium brought its share of challenges to the world as well as IFLA, but the Federation persevered and continued to expand and evolve. In 2000, the *Statutes* and *Rules of Procedure* were revised again, bringing a new structure and progressive changes to IFLA. In 2001, the first postal ballot was held to elect a President-Elect, who would go on to be President in two years. Also in 2001, IFLA reached the zenith of its country membership with 155 country members. In 2002, the IFLA Round Tables were dissolved and most of them transformed into Sections, and the Conferences began being called "World Library and Information Congresses." IFLA also celebrated its 75th anniversary at the 2002 Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, with a membership of 1,711 members in 151 countries. The year 2006 saw the pinnacle of membership in IFLA, with 1,784 recorded. The year 2008 saw new *Statutes* and in 2009 the actual 75th IFLA Session was held in Milan, Italy. And through all of this, the internet not only grew, but became the most used communication tool of the decade, with Conference blogs and tweets even being tracked and archived on the IFLA website by 2008.

At its 85th anniversary at the 78th IFLA Session/World Library and Information Congress: General Conference and Assembly in Helsinki, Finland, IFLA was fit and exuberant. With the development of the 1930's, the diligence of the 1940's, the determination of the 1950's, the internationalism of the 1960's, the growth of the 1970's, the adventure of the 1980's, and the technology of the 1990's and 2000's, IFLA is set to continue to expand. With its greatest years ahead of it, IFLA looks proudly forward and continues to define and redefine its role as the world's leading organization for international librarianship, the steward for librarians all over the world, and the keeper of civilization's knowledge.

1926-1929: The Origins and Beginnings of IFLA

The idea of an international library organization had been percolating through the world for years before it was made official in 1927. National library organizations began forming in the mid-nineteenth century, with the ALA founded in 1876 and the [UK] Library Association in 1877. These foundations set the stage for the beginning of transnational activities, such as Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine and their work with the International Institute of Bibliography.⁸ These attempts were cut short by the advent of World War I in 1914. It was not until post-World War I, with the establishment of the League

of Nations in 1920, that the general movement of organized internationalism began anew.

In July 1926, at the International Congress of Librarians and Booklovers in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Gabriel Henriot, head of the French Library Association, presented a proposal to establish an international library federation. Later in October 1926, at the ALA General Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US, Henriot's proposal was discussed by a group of international delegates from 13 countries and ALA's Committee on International Relations. That Committee then produced a formal recommendation to establish an international library organization.

The ALA Committee's recommendation was presented by delegates of the ALA at the 1927 Annual Meeting of the [UK] Library Association in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, where the 50th anniversary of the [UK] Library Association was being celebrated. On September 27, the [UK] Library Association's International Library Cooperation Section formed a seven-person working group to consider the 1926 proposal. This seven-person working group was composed of Dr. Isak G. A. Collijn of Sweden, Chairman, Dr. Vincenzo Fago of Italy, Dr. Henry Guppy of the UK, Dr. Hugo Kruss of Germany, M. Henri Lemaitre of France, Carl H. Milam of the US, and Dr. Zdenek Vaclav Tobolka of Czechoslovakia. The working group held two meetings on September 29, 1927, about this issue.

On September 30, 1927, the working group met in the Mahogany Room of the North British Hotel and adopted ALA's recommendation, officially forming the International Library and Bibliographical Committee. This Committee would later be renamed the International Federation of Library Associations, or IFLA, in 1929. The final Resolution document of this Committee was signed by delegates of fifteen countries, including: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US. The accepted final Resolution contained seven points, including one that stated "the duties of the Committee shall be to select the time and place for international conferences and, with the cooperation of local committees, to prepare programs for such conferences."⁹ As part of the discussion about the final Resolution, it was stated that "The international committee, purely representative of national associations, which will also consider international library and bibliographical questions in general, will doubtless afford the world organization which is promoting in so many professions and relations international sympathy and brotherhood, the best antidote for war and assurance for peace."¹⁰ This final Resolution was considered by many IFLA's "Magna Carta" of foundation.¹¹



2. Isak G. A. Collijn, IFLA President 1927-1931

Isak G. A. Collijn, Director of the Royal Library of Stockholm, Sweden, and Chairman of the seven-person working group, was elected first Chairman (later President) of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee. He was a distinguished scholar, primarily an incunabulist and medievalist of international fame, who combined a wide culture with exceptional linguistic accomplishments. Fluent in eight languages, he furnished on occasion astonishing proof of the latter.¹² The first library organizations to join the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA) were the Belgian Association of Archivists and Librarians, the Danish Library Association, the Finnish Library Association, the Association of French Librarians, the Library Association (UK), the Central Association for Public Libraries (The Netherlands), The Netherlands Association of Librarians, the Polish Librarians' Association, the Swedish Association of Research Librarians, Sweden's General Library Association, and the Swiss Vereinigung Schweizerischer Bibliothekare. Session proceedings for this first meeting were recorded in *Actes*, Volume I, published in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1931.



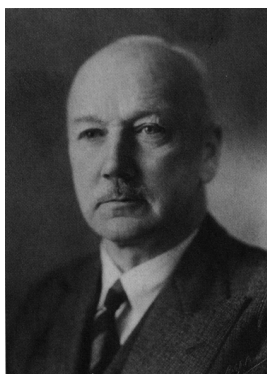
3. Heinrich Uhlendahl, IFLA Secretary General 1928-1929

The 1928, 1st Session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA) was held in Rome, Italy, on March 31. This first meeting was mainly devoted to matters of a practical, organizational character, as could be expected. The session was held in Rome in preparation for the following year's First International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography also to be held in that city. In accordance with international custom, the Session was carried out in English, French, German, and Italian. IFLA Chairman Collijn proposed the establishment of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee and it was unanimously adopted. Heinrich Uhlendahl of Germany was asked to take over as Secretary General for the duration of the meeting. The agenda focused on the election of the Executive Committee, decision of the time and place for the next session, a proposition by Mr. Godet concerning the program for future Congresses, and appointment of Subcommittees. During the Session it was decided that the new organization would only concern itself with questions of a truly international character, related to international problems or problems of general interest, and of concern to a number of countries, not superfluous discussion of unrelated single topics, to ensure the meeting program's unity and substance.¹³

Of the fifteen countries that originally signed the 1927 Resolution at the Edinburgh, Scotland, [UK] Library Association Meeting, twelve delegates attended this Session, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the US. Of the Executive Committee elected at the Edinburgh meeting, the delegates of Czechoslovakia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and the US were present. As of this Session, the International Library and Bibliographical Committee had a membership of 14 countries. It had been decided at the 1927 Edinburgh meeting, that the founding Resolution (signed by the representatives) would not be binding until approved by the different library associations, yet by this 1st Session only 14 of the original 15 countries had approved the Resolution.

The only country that was lacking was Denmark, as the Denmark Library Association had yet to meet, to be able to approve the Resolution.

The 1929, 2nd Session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA) was held in Rome, Italy, on June 14, in conjunction with the first International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography, which was also held in Florence on June 25, and Venice on June 29, with each meeting forming a part of the same session. Over 1,500 participants attended the Congress, with eighty-five papers presented. The Session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee (later IFLA) was attended by delegates from 18 countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lettland (Latvia), The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US, and by a delegate from the League of Nations.¹⁴



4. Tietse Pieter Sevensma, IFLA Secretary General, 1929-1958

The temporary Secretary General was the US ALA Secretary Carl H. Milam, until Tietse Pieter Sevensma of The Netherlands was officially appointed into the position. Sevensma was the Director of the League of Nations Library in Geneva, Switzerland. His appointment was advantageous to IFLA as Sevensma was a link to the League of Nations world organization, and gave IFLA a permanent seat in Geneva at that organization's Library. Sevensma was a Dutchman of encyclopedic culture, open to the world, temperamental and very active, gifted with a winning humanity and amiability. A skilled negotiator with a dynamic personality, he was always out for new contacts. Seen in the light of history, he appears the very soul of the young Federation, and at the same time the embodiment of the enthusiasm which in the early days characterized many champions of the international cooperation.^{15, 16}

The IFLA Chairman (now called President) continued to be Isak G. A. Collijn, Director of the Royal Library of Stockholm, Sweden. As part of the business discussion, membership officially changed the name of the organization

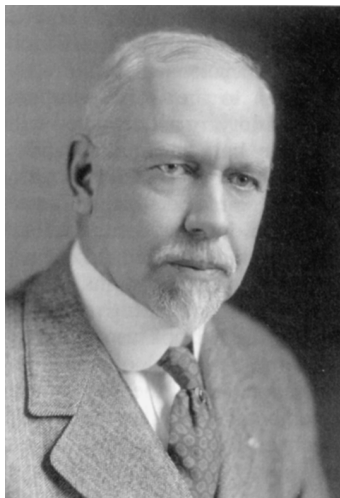
from the International Library and Bibliographical Committee to the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Executive Committee changed its name to the International Library Committee, and the organization adopted its first official *Statutes*. As of this Session, IFLA had a membership of 21 library associations from 21 countries. New members to IFLA in 1929 were the Denmark Library Association, the Estonia Library Association, the Japanese Library Association, the Lettland (Latvia) Library Association, the Mexican Library Association, the Polish Library Association, the State Advisory Committee on Library Affairs (The Netherlands), and the American Library Association.

By the end of the Session, the new body was a rather loosely organized federation of associations, with a President in Stockholm, Sweden, and a Secretary General in Geneva, Switzerland, and a little money, but no permanent office, and no guarantee for any kind of permanence. But IFLA had been created with its present name and in its present form. Some organizational problems had been solved as the first International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography had presented the new Federation with a working program for years to come, and the first Subcommittees had been formed, so work could begin.¹⁷

1930's: IFLA Emerges

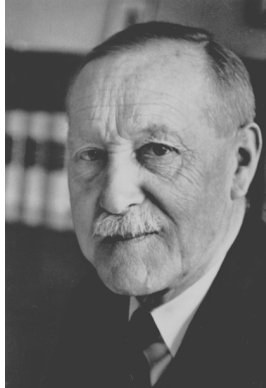
Leadership: 1930's

The decade of the 1930's saw three IFLA Presidents. Isak G. A. Collijn, Director of the Royal Library of Stockholm, Sweden, continued as President until he completed his term during the 1931 Session. William Warner Bishop, noted library consultant out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, US, was then elected President. Not only did Bishop embody the best American library traditions, but he was also an excellent authority on European librarianship, and its specific needs and problems. He was also a learned bibliophile. In accepting the presidency, he apologized for not speaking as many languages as Mr. Collijn, but vowed to do his utmost to advance the affairs of the Federation.^{18, 19}



5. William Warner Bishop, IFLA President 1931-1936

When President Bishop resigned from his post in 1936, there was an election and Vice President Marcel Godet, Director of the Swiss National Library, Berne, Switzerland, was elected President. An excellent organizer with practical sense, Godet was a highly cultivated man, with a wide range of interests, charming and full of Gallic wit, radiating a warm humanity and an unbending idealism.^{20, 21} Godet served the remainder of the decade, even though in 1939 he wished to step down for political and health reasons, but he did not due to the difficult political world situation of that moment. IFLA's German delegation (obligated to officially represent Hitler's National Socialist regime) was laying claim on the leadership of IFLA, so Godet was persuaded to continue in office, much to the relief of the Norwegian President designate, Wilhelm Munthe. Mr. Munthe, Director of the Oslo University Library, Norway, had declined the IFLA proposal to become President, "because I could not get over my dislike, my reluctance for the presidency over a Congress in Germany, which involved fraternizing with Nazism and making complacent addresses to Dr. Goebbels and consorts." So although he did not desire to, Godet continued as IFLA's President through the end of the decade.^{22, 23}



6. Marcel Godet, IFLA President 1936-1947

As for Secretary General, Tietse Pieter Sevensma of The Netherlands served for the entire decade. In 1938, Secretary General Sevensma left his position at the League of Nations Library to return to The Netherlands to take up the direction of the Library of Leyden University, but remained Secretary General of IFLA the entire time.

The Organization: 1930's

In 1930, the official languages for the Session were voted on and English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish were approved. Also in 1930, three working committees were established on the topics of library staff, book statistics, and professional training. In addition at the 1930 Session, the official *Statutes* adopted by IFLA in 1929 came into effect, constituting the organization as a world union of national library associations, also open to related organizations of central library institutions in countries where no library associations were in existence. These *Statutes* were also slightly amended during that Session.

By 1932, IFLA had seven working Subcommittees: Hospital Libraries, Popular Libraries, Exchange of Librarians, Exchange of University Theses, Professional Education, Library Statistics, and Printed Matter. By the end of 1932, a Subcommittee of the Popular Libraries Committee was established, which formally brought public library issues into IFLA for the first time. In 1934, six new Committees were established to cover, for instance, Special Libraries, Parliamentary Libraries, Uniform Catalog Rules, and Standardization.

By 1936, IFLA consisted of thirteen Subcommittees: Special Libraries, Hospital Libraries, Popular (Public) Libraries, Exchange of Librarians, Exchange of University Theses, Professional Education, Library Statistics, Statistics of Publications, Parliamentary Libraries, Uniform Catalog Rules, Legal Question

Concerning International Loans, Normalization in the Field of Books and Libraries, and Overproduction of Periodicals.

In the years directly after the original development of IFLA's Subcommittees, they seldom had meetings in between the annual Sessions, which was detrimental to the Committee's development and goals.²⁴ Many years later it was noted that IFLA Committees of the 1930's were ineffective because their work was practically always the work of just one man, usually the chairman, and the Committees were dependent upon this chairman to submit their reports. At Session, this lead to a chairman and a secretary discussing subjects they had arranged before a completely arbitrary audience.²⁵

Membership: 1930's

IFLA began the decade in 1930 with 24 Member Associations, representing 20 countries: Austria, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland (2 members), France, Germany (2 members), Italy, Japan, Latvia, The Netherlands (3 members), Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US. By decade's end in 1939, IFLA consisted of 41 Member Associations in 31 countries, and included 2 international groupings. Apart from the US, there were several library associations from outside Europe, such as China, India, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, and Palestine. Overall, this was a 71% increase in membership from 1930 to 1939.

New members to IFLA during the decade included the Norwegian Library Association in 1930, the Finnish Research Library Association in 1931, the Association of Mexican Librarians in 1932, Greece's Superior Council of Libraries in 1933, the US Medical Library Association in 1934, the India Public Library Association in 1935, the Vatican Library and the International Association of Hospital Libraries (which was the first international organization to join) in 1936, the Library Association of Australia in 1937, and the Association of Hungarian Librarians in 1938.

Milestones: 1930's

A number of important milestones occurred for IFLA during the 1930's. In 1931, IFLA published the first edition of *IFLA Repertoire*, which was a directory of IFLA members with contact information for the Federation as well as each individual member. During the 1932 Session, IFLA passed a resolution highlighting the dangers libraries were facing because of the severe financial situation of the world: "The International Library Committee urgently requests governments, in spite of the world crisis, to maintain undiminished, for the service of intellectual workers, the financial provision made for national education and instruction, and notably credits voted for libraries." This resolution was dispatched to the governments of all countries.^{26, 27} In 1933, the Interna-

tional Institute of Intellectual Cooperation stated its readiness to cooperate with IFLA by collaborating through the League of Nations to influence governments to execute IFLA's 1932 Resolution on the world financial crisis and its effect on libraries.

In 1939, the Sevensma Prize was founded to mark the 60th birthday of Tietse Pieter Sevensma and his first ten years as Secretary General of IFLA. The Prize was to be given every other year to the author of the best paper on libraries in their relations to current problems. The competition was open to all members of an association affiliated with IFLA who were less than 40 years old at the date of submission of the paper.

Overview of the 1930's Sessions

Most IFLA meetings of the 1930's were two-day meetings with an average attendance of between 30 and 50 delegates, and by one or more representatives of the League of Nations and the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation. There was a fixed procedure for the sessions consisting of two plenary sessions, during which the various Subcommittees held their professional meetings.

The opening plenary session was devoted to addresses of welcome by representatives of the authorities and libraries hosting the session, and to the opening speech by the President. This was followed by the Secretary General's progress report, and his survey of IFLA's financial situation. As there was not a separate Treasurer position as part of the IFLA Executive Board at this time, the Secretary General managed the finances and made the financial reports to the organization during Session. Then came the reports presented by the delegates of related cultural organizations. The final meeting of these early sessions was devoted to the presentation of the individual country reports from each national library organization. The International Institute of Documentation (later FID) and the International Committee of Agriculture Libraries began having a representative make a presentation at the IFLA Sessions, to highlight cooperation between the two organizations. The League of Nations also continued to send a representative to each meeting.

The closing plenary session concluded the official program with the announcements of directions and plans of the Executive Committee, and the determination of the next Session's location and time. Fortunately there was always an invitation from some country to host the next Session. Sometimes the actual discussion was left to the Board. The Session proceedings were recorded in the *Actes*, published in Geneva, Switzerland. These publications were important for IFLA early on, as they formed the only regular means of communication between IFLA and its members. Of these *Actes*, the *Annexes* formed the most important part, as these contained the full text of most of the Subcommittees reports and all of the national reports. The national reports

were an important means of informing other countries of one's national developments, and one's most important publications in the field. All taken together these reports formed an important and interesting source of library history. In 1933, Nijhoff Publishers began producing and selling the *Actes*. This provided IFLA a steady profit stream for the first time, which gave the Federation finances to assist with planning.^{28, 29}

Generally during the 1930's, the contributions of the members paid for the printing of the annual volumes of the *Actes* and for minor expenses such as the stamps for the distribution of various matters to the member-associations. The Congresses were also subsidized by the Federation, but there was never very much money left, even after selling the *Actes*.³⁰

The Sessions, 1930-1939

The 1930, 3rd IFLA Session was held in Stockholm, Sweden, August 20-21. The Session was attended by representatives of 20 nations, and other international representatives. In his opening remarks, President Collijn spoke of the importance of the development of libraries in the development of civilization. There was only one woman on the program (Miss Sarah Bogle, the US ALA representative), but it was reported that two others were present for the meeting.³¹

The 1931, 4th IFLA Session was held in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK, August 29-31, in conjunction with the [UK] Library Association Meeting, August 31-September 5. The Session was attended by 20 delegates representing 12 nations. In his opening remarks, President Collijn said, "Unfortunately, clouds have gathered at the political and economic horizon of the world since our last meeting, and due to this our present session is not so well attended as our previous meetings in Rome and Stockholm...I called attention, gentlemen, to the present situation of general depression in all countries. It is obvious that these conditions cast their shadow even within the area of intellectual activity, and library work especially has suffered heavily from economic difficulties in several lands."^{32, 33} At the end of the Session, as President Collijn announced the completion of his term, he said, "I beg to express my sincere thanks to the delegates of the Federation for the privilege given me during the past years of working for its organization. It would have been impossible to fulfill the mission entrusted to me, had it not been for the support I have experienced from the many good friends from the various countries, amongst who may be counted several of Europe's and America's foremost librarians."³⁴

The 1932, 5th IFLA Session was held in Berne, Switzerland, June 9-10. The Session was attended by 27 delegates representing 17 countries. In his opening remarks, President Bishop dwelt on two aspects: the achievements and major occurrences in the world of librarianship, and the by then even more obvious financial crisis in the world at large: "We meet in parlous times ... all interna-