



Newsletter of the LIASA Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards	Vol. 12, No2 (December 2015)
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FROM THE CHAIR

As 2015 winds down, it is time to reflect on the activities of 2015. It was an extraordinary year with no workshop due to IFLA being in Cape Town, but for the Committee it was still a busy year.

After the experimental DDC Introduction online course on Classmarker, the Committee decided to present a full course on DDC. With the help from Ina Smith, the course was presented on the LIASA Academy during August/September. The topic was "Technical introduction to DDC" and it was presented in four modules. 81 people registered initially and 52 people completed all four modules. The average for the course was 63.9%.

It was a great learning curve and lessons were learned. The Committee will have to consider problem areas identified, such as registration procedures, target audience, time allowed for the course completion, etc.

Even with the teething problems, participants found the course valuable and the feedback was positive. The Committee extended a big thank you to Gert de Jager for his hard work in developing the course. Thank you to the rest of the Committee for helping with registration, payment, etc. It was a great example of team work.

To all the cataloguers out there, please enjoy the festive season, be safe, drive carefully and may 2016 be the best year ever.

IGBIS is the Interest Group for cataloguers.

Please communicate your training needs, news, cataloguing problems, etc. with the cataloguing community through:

Listserv: <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/liasa-igbis>

Twitter: @igbisintouch

Dr H. Marais

Technical introduction to DDC: Online course – a cataloguers perspective

When I enrolled for this course, I thought to myself how hard can it be? Every day I assign DDC numbers to books we catalogue.

Was I wrong ...?. I had my Dewey manual with me on the one side and the Internet in front of me. The first 3 assignments went very well, no complaints there, but I read a lot, even did research.

Then came assignment 4, time was passing by quickly. Sjoe, thank you for only 15 questions and not more.

Will I do it again? YES, of course I will!

I learnt a lot and a huge thank you to Mr Gert de Jager and Dr Hester Marais for all their hard work and input into these assignments.

Didi Jansen van Vuuren

Technical introduction to DDC: Online course – non-cataloguers perspective

During July 2015 the IGBIS Committee finalized their decision to present an online course on DDC. The course was developed by Mr Gert de Jager from UNISA and was made available to cataloguers and UNISA library science students using the Moodle software on the LIASA Academy's website. The online course ran from 1 September to 2 October 2015 and consisted of 4 modules:

Module 1

DDC structure, Hierarchy

Module 2

Notes, Terminologies

Module 3

Principles for choosing DDC numbers

Module 4

Number building

Each module had an assessment which had to be completed on specific days. Participant who completed all 4 modules, received a certificate of achievement while those who only completed the course partially, received a certificate of participation. The study material compiled for each module by Mr Gert de Jager, in conjunction with DDC23 or WebDewey, were used to complete the assessments.

Seeing that I serve on the IGBIS Committee I decided that it was a good idea to brush up on my cataloguing skills which was last put to the test while I was still studying in the 1980's. "How difficult could it be?" I thought to myself. It was after all only "technical introduction"...

Well, the standard of the course was much higher than I anticipated. The first two modules were relatively easy, but oh boy, the sweating started with module three and reached its climax during module 4! It proved very difficult to make a selection from all the available answers. They all somehow seemed to be correct... Not to mention the number building in module four – it was a daunting task to even decide where to start. :-)

In my opinion the course was of a very high standard and I personally learnt a lot. I liked that one could immediately see whether the answer you provided was correct or not and that the marks for each assessment were available on the following day. I also found the option to "save" the assessments to continue later very useful.

I wish to thank Mr Gert de Jager for all his efforts in developing the course. I think it was most useful and I hope that cataloguers who participated enhanced their cataloguing skills and knowledge. I know I personally did!

I would definitely recommend that online courses like these be presented on a regular basis as it is a very practical way of learning without being away from the office. It is also cost effective as participants do not have to incur any costs with regards to traveling and accommodation.

I again gained respect for all cataloguers in libraries all over South Africa. I believe that IGBIS contributed through this online course towards developing cataloguing skills and knowledge.

Lindi Wiltz

Sabinet Support Manager and IGBIS Committee Member

My Cape Town IFLA Experience

Cape Town International Convention Centre was a hive of activity from 15 – 21 August 2015, when thousands of librarians from all over the world attended the World Library and Information Congress, 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly.

As a member of the Bibliography Standing Committee my first session at IFLA was a business meeting on Saturday 15 August 2015, during which we reaffirmed our mission as being about bibliographic control, workflows and standards, discussed apart from Committee business, problems relating to the move to RDA, the collection and cataloguing of electronic publications, the cataloguing of different collections at different levels and the use of the FRBR national bibliography record.

It was a lively and thought provoking discussion and it transpires that we are all dealing with similar challenges, so it was inspiring to get an international perspective on how other librarians are tackling similar issues to what we ourselves are experiencing.

The opening session on Sunday morning 16 August 2015 was something to make every South African librarian proud. Spine tingling, goose bumping, hair raisingly awesome!!!

The OCLC Industry Symposium speakers that Sunday afternoon related some incredible statistics: 340 million records; 2.2 billion holdings; 43 million digital items; 16 million e-books. Colleagues.... THAT'S A LOT OF CATALOGUING GOING ON THERE!!!

Monday 17 August 2015 delivered an open session held under the auspices of the IFLA Bibliography Section and had as its theme: National Bibliographies Transformed: Matters Relating to the Legal Deposit of Electronic Resources. Our very own Denise Nicholson from the University of the Witwatersrand delivered a paper on: Legal deposit in South Africa: transformation in a digital world and was followed by Edita Lichtenbergova from the National Library of the Czech Republic; Stina Degerstedt from the National Library of Sweden and Mathilda Koskas from the Bibliotheque nationale de France, all discussing the concept of legal deposit and how it is dealt with in their own countries. It was a fascinating look at a global initiative from an international perspective.

The afternoon poster session revealed the amazingly creative manner in which complex concepts can effectively be portrayed and brought to life on 1 piece of cardboard!! Well done to all the participants. By the time I had walked around the exhibition hall viewing the posters and visiting the service provider stalls my feet were killing me, which served me right for choosing 10 cm heeled boots for a conference (aaaah vanity ...)

The IFLA highlights session on Tuesday 18 August was opened by the outgoing IFLA president Ms Sinilla Sipila and covered the highlights of the past conference in Lyon, France, the highlights of the past year and stressed the importance of the IFLA Conference as being the forum for the discussion of library issues at a global level. She reminded us that issues raised through IFLA, can ultimately be brought up for discussion before the United Nations.

Ms Segametsi Molawa and Ms Ujala Satgoor provided the following IFLA Cape Town details. The Cape Town Declaration had been signed on 14 August 2015. A total of 3100 delegates

attended of which 1369 came from South Africa, with a total of 112 countries being represented.

A 2nd IFLA Bibliography Standing Committee business meeting was held during the afternoon, followed by the cultural evening which was an absolute delight (and I had my face painted!!)

Wednesday the 19 August 2015 dawned literally bright and clear, a welcome change from the windy conditions of the previous days. Just as well I ditched the heels for some flatties as it was a day of running between the open session held by the IFLA Standards Committee which had as its theme: The Impact of Standards on the International Library Community. Speakers discussed the relationship between IFLA standards and other international standards and looked at the IFLA Standards Procedure Manual. Reviewed the ISBD report which is available on the IFLA Cataloguing Committee's website, discussed the IFLA conceptual models of harmonizing and consolidating, discussed the RDA report which is available on the IFLA Standards Committee website, discussed FRBRoo as a reformulation of FRBRer, you will be pleased to hear that we are moving from an entity relationship to an object oriented relationship. FRBRoo has led to the creation of FRBR LRM (Library Reference Model). FRBR is being remodeled and there will be a world-wide review of FRBR in 2016. At this point I began to have an Alice in Wonderland experience, feeling I had fallen down a rabbit hole and entered an entirely new world, the world of FRBR!!!

Next was the OCLC KZN presentation hosted by Sabinet Online followed (at a run remember) by the Officers training session and then (still at a run) the 2nd business meeting of the IFLA Cataloguing Committee. It's a large Committee comprising many members so lots of discussion, lots of debate, but all very interesting.

Thursday 20 August 2015 (last day of conference). The day began with a session on Dynamic National Libraries. The theme of this session was: Innovating to Progress National Information and Library Policy. Speakers included Guy Berthiaume from the Library and Archives Canada who spoke on 10 years of innovation with the merging of the 2 organisations. He stressed the importance that National Libraries reinvent themselves. Aslak Sira Myhre from the National Library of Norway stated that they are responsible for National Library policy and for ensuring that the entire population of 5 million people are adequately catered for. The Internet is the medium of the present and they make much use of online and social media to stay in touch and know what is happening now. We have become people who live in the present, all the time, so we need to activate our history and our memory. The National Library of Norway is involved in creating large exhibitions, hosting lectures, seminars and concerts. Their aim is to change libraries from being places for books to being places for people. Libraries should be social meeting points and digital access points. Jos Debeij from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands spoke on the new legislation that had come into effect for public libraries in the Netherlands. He recounted how there had been a peak of borrowers and users in 1994 but a gradual decrease since then. This had come about as a result of the Internet and the economic crises. Research indicated that use of the public library had changed, which led to the institution of new legislation and a new Public Library's Act. It was felt that libraries needed to take on a new, more versatile role in the community, this had resulted in the merging of the National Library and the Public Libraries. Prof M.D. Ralebipi-Simela from the National Library of South Africa expounded on the need to be agents of change, how it is essential that people read so they can become active members of society. As librarians we need to ensure that our collections reflect who we really are, we need to actively collect stories of the indigenous peoples of Africa.

My final session of conference fittingly covered a cataloguing session: Modelling Bibliographic Information for a Web of Data: Challenges and Achievements. This session followed on to a large extent from the Impact of Standards on the International Library Community session of the previous day. The Alice feeling returned with a vengeance and I eventually gave up taking notes and just sat and listened... in awe... to the complexities and intricacies of cataloguing.

The Thursday afternoon closing session ended Conference. I can truly say that this has been a most remarkable, worthwhile learning experience. Networking opportunities abound for those who attend and the value of gaining an international perspective, and taking new found knowledge back to ones own workplace, cannot be over emphasized.

See you in OHIO 2016 :-)

Nikki Potgieter

IGBIS Committee member

Important addresses and links

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