



**International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions**

Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

In this issue we report on the very successful IFLA Conference in Seoul, Korea. If you were unable to attend the conference or would like to “revisit” it and remind yourself of the excellent presentations, see pages 2 and 3 for abstracts and links to the IFLA website for the full text of a number of the papers. In this issue, we include two personal reflections of the IFLA conference and an interview with one of our speakers, Professor Sungdo David Hong.

Significant developments have been taking place in Norway’s prison libraries. This issue of the LSDP Newsletter includes an article by Erlend Ra, Adviser at the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority, who describes the recent activities in the prison library service in Norway and how the IFLA Guidelines on prison libraries have helped to support this process.

A number of translations of LSDP’s IFLA Guidelines have recently been published. See page 11 for information about the French, German and Russian translations of the Prison Library Guidelines and also a German translation of the checklist, *Access to libraries for persons with disabilities*.

Very best wishes for 2007!

Margaret E S Forrest
Editor

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IFLA Conference Review



World Library
and Information
Congress:
72nd
IFLA General
Conference
and
Council

*"Libraries: dynamic engines for the
knowledge and information society"*

August 20th - 24th 2006,
Seoul, Korea

The LSDP Section programme at this year's IFLA General Conference and Council was concerned with the topic of dyslexia. The title of our session was "**Library services to dyslexic patrons**". It took place on Tuesday 22nd August from 8:30 to 10.30. The full text of the presentations is available from the IFLA Conference website at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm>

The following is an outline of the LSDP programme and links to the full text of papers, where available.

Dyslexia: Medical Perspectives
SUNGDO DAVID HONG (Professor of Psychiatry, Samsung Medical Centre, Seoul, South Korea)

Knowledge sharing also for disabled readers
HELLE ARENDRUP MORTENSEN
(Lyngby-Taarbaek Kommunes Biblioteker, Lyngby, Denmark)

Abstract: This paper focuses on library services to persons with dyslexia and their accessibility to the knowledge and information society by using new technology. It describes a new project in Lyngby-Taarbaek Public Libraries for disabled readers based on a new application called LiveReader. The project is a partnership with the Danish company Tagarno.
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/101-Mortensen-en.pdf>

Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia
GYDA SKAT NIELSEN (Horholm, Denmark)

Abstract: No matter what language – dyslexia is everywhere! It is estimated that dyslexia affects 8% - 10% of the world's population. Dyslexia or Specific Learning Disability is a serious disability in a world of letters. Since Dyslexia is an invisible disability, many people have difficulty understanding the problems of a person with dyslexia. The libraries have the responsibility to assist this large group of patrons in accessing information on equal terms with their fellow citizens. The democratic right of access to culture, literature and information extends to all, including those with reading difficulties. It is of vital importance that all citizens be able to obtain information that enable them to function society. In order for a

person to exercise his/her democratic rights and to control his/her own life, all citizens must be well informed.

This paper offers examples on how to welcome persons with dyslexia in the library and provide appropriate services and materials. The entire staff should be well informed about disabilities, including "invisible" disabilities like dyslexia. The library should be accessible for persons with dyslexia and should offer books made specifically for persons with reading problems, materials on CD and other media, including computer programs designed for persons with dyslexia.
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/101-Nielsen-en.pdf>

Development of Information and Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia - Asian Experiences
MISAKO NOMURA (Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, Tokyo, Japan)

Abstract: This presentation describes a Japanese experience and challenge to support persons with dyslexia in equal access to information and library services through the implementation of DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) technology which is rapidly spreading worldwide. It is followed by a discussion on how information and library services have been developed to target people in Asian countries, while describing the activities of DFA (DAISY FOR ALL) Project organized by the DAISY

Consortium in this region.
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/101-Nomura-en.pdf>

Asian Library Practices of Serving Persons with Dyslexia: Survey Findings
YOUNGSOOK LEE (National Library of Korea, Seoul, Korea)

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Accessibility and Library Services to the Blind, Visually Impaired, Dyslexics and Disabled Readers: Personal Reflections on the IFLA Conference.

Helle Mortensen
Lyngby-Taarbaek Public Library, Denmark

Many different sections focused on accessibility at the conference this year, especially Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons and Libraries for the Blind, but also several other sections.

Library services to dyslexics was the subject for the theme of our section. The session started with a short introduction to dyslexia and secondly turned to library services to this particular group both from a European and an Asian angle. It tried to answer the questions: how do you start and what are the tools? The presentations generated great interest among the 150 participants, because dyslexia is an area, which has not been really addressed in the Asian countries. The presentations were practical guides to participants,

who are going to start from scratch and are lacking resources. They also gave examples on how to use technology.

New technology plays an important role in creating equal opportunities for disabled readers - particularly if the technology is accessible. Accessible websites and accessibility to the Internet was the theme of the session of Libraries for the Blind section. In EU alone there are 10 million blind and visually impaired. This is a significant group excluded from the information society, if libraries and others are not aware of standards to be followed regarding this. Korea has formulated targets around accessibility for groups of elderly and disabled people and those with low incomes in order to give them better opportunities in using the Internet. Legislation, training and further standardisation is helping to address this issue, but support is also needed from government. Support should be in the form of resources, so that technology can be disseminated to disabled people at low cost.

Government should also support the development of new technology. Korea appears to be leading the way in new technology. 71 % of the population are using the Internet, but 97% of the users are between 20 and 29 years of age. Great effort is therefore needed to include the rest of the population in the information society.

A paper on DAISY, the international standard for producing audio books was also presented at the IFLA

Conference during the session of the Information Technology Section. The ubiquitous library was the overall theme for the Science and Technology Libraries Section. At this session a question raised was: will all library services and content be available to anyone, anywhere at anytime? One of the presentations described, how blind and physically disabled people are able to download digital texts by using a mobile with a special reader. The technology is based on DAISY and developed in the digital library: LG Sangnam Library in Seoul.

There were several poster sessions on disadvantaged persons. The general impression of the exhibition was that there is still a lack of understanding regarding accessibility. For instance when it comes to designing machines for check in and check out, the disabled people are mostly forgotten. There is a great lack of standards for global design as well as lack of attention from the authorities responsible for public planning.

It is important to focus on the access needs of disabled people. In Denmark we have standards, but they are not always implemented, because awareness of the planners is non-existent. I think it is important, that global design is placed on the agenda among designers, architects and others, in order to initiate a change in practice.

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Further Reflections on LSDP Session at Conference

Tone Moseid

Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority

On the annual IFLA conference in Seoul, August 2006, the LSDP experienced an outspoken interest in the topic of library services to dyslexic patrons. More than 120 participants attended the session, and the majority seemed to come from Asian countries. This was a pleasant experience to the Standing Committees members, as the topic for the session was chosen to highlight a challenge that is not well known in Asia today. The session had simultaneous translation, which probably contributed to the number of participants. The Section for Library Services to the Blind had their session in the same room immediately after – this planned succession led probably also to a high number of attendants on both of these arrangements.

The session's key note speaker, Dr. Sungdo David Hong, is a professor of Psychiatry at the Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul. His presentation on the medical perspectives of dyslexia gave the rest of the program a platform of knowledge, that was necessary to fully understand the challenges dyslexic patrons meet in their everyday life, and to understand the challenges connected to giving library services to this group. He presented both statistical information on the extent of dyslexia – or rather,

the extent of knowledge and acknowledgment of this persistent, chronic syndrome. As the Scandinavian countries estimates the number of population having severe reading disorders to approximately 10 %, the estimate in Venezuela is 33 % - and in Japan and China the figure is 1 %. As the difference probably is not as large as these between the different nationalities, the figures also tells us that the problems dyslexic people meet, are not very well known in most Asian countries.

The next speaker was Helle Arendrup Mortensen from Lyngby-Taarbaek public library in Lyngby, Denmark. Helle described a new project in Lyngby-Taarbaek public library for disabled readers based on a new application called LiveReader. The project is a partnership with the Danish company Tagarno.

Gyda Skat Nielsen, who is a long-standing member of the LSDP, gave a presentation on "Library services to persons with dyslexia", pointing out that the democratic right of access to culture, literature and information extends to all, including people with reading difficulties. It is estimated that dyslexia affects 8 – 10 % of the world's population. The libraries have the responsibility to assist this large group of patrons in accessing information on equal terms with their fellow citizens.

Misako Nomura from the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, Tokyo, Japan, gave a presentation on Development of Information and Library Services to

Persons with Dyslexia – Asian experiences. Her presentation described how the implementation of the DAISY technology is used to support persons with dyslexia in equal access to information and library services in Japan.

Finally, YoungSook Lee from the National Library of Korea in Seoul presented “Asian Library Practices of Serving Persons with Dyslexia – survey findings”. She presented the results of a survey, probably one of the first of its kind in Asia, showing that there is a growing awareness of the challenges that dyslexia raises in the libraries, but that it will be necessary to both raise the awareness further, along with developing knowledge on how to meet patrons with dyslexia.

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Interview with Professor Hong

Tone Moseid

After the LSDP session, Professor Hong willingly answered a few questions on the topic of dyslexia.

Prof. Hong, is it possible for a blind person to suffer from dyslexia?

This is a very interesting question. As dyslexia has something to do with the brain's ability to understand the code of letters, or the image of letters and words, one may very well think that a blind may experience the same difficulties in reading Braille. Unfortunately, there are no studies that can tell us the answer to this, so far.



Professor Sungdo David Hong

The approximate rate of the population suffering from dyslexia varies from 1 to 33 % in different countries – is this something that has more to do with how dyslexia is defined and diagnosed, rather than true differences between different ethnic populations? Or could it be that some populations have a higher rate, based on genetic differences?

The different ways of defining dyslexia is confusing. We find these definitions different not only from country to country, but also from state to state. There is a saying: “To cure reading disorders, just move to another state”. The different ways of defining dyslexia is probably the most important explanation for the great variety in ratings between different countries. But we also know that the fact that languages are different may have something to say, so this is a complex issue. What is important, is to focus on the awareness of dyslexia in all countries, and on what the government is doing to help people with reading disorders.

In your speech, you used the phrase “The gift of dyslexia”, referring to well-known geniuses who are known to be dyslectic – like Leonardo da Vinci. Is this merely a phrase, or is it really so that people with reading disorders tend to be

more intelligent than the rest of the population?

There is no survey showing a direct link between these two qualities in persons. What we do see, though, is that the brain of a person with dyslexia often is more developed in other parts than others. This may of course be due to the fact that many people with dyslexia work very hard – harder than others – to compensate for their reading problems. When we meet successful, dyslexic person, we probably meet a person who has worked hard and has made an effort in learning by other means than reading.

Do you have something on your mind that you want to share with us?

I'm very happy to see that you focus on this topic. Dyslexic people are not too popular in libraries – it is necessary to promote knowledge on how to meet the needs of people with reading disorders in libraries in a better way. Offering audio books is a simple way of making dyslexic people feel more welcome, that there is something offered them, too, in the libraries. It is important to encourage people with reading disorders to use the library, so that they will be able to improve their abilities, based on the services and collections offered especially for them.

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LSDP Poster Sessions

At the IFLA Conference in Seoul, members of the LSDP Standing Committee presented a number of posters:

Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section: 75th Anniversary

Presenters: Ms Joanne Locke and Ms Nancy Panella



LSDP Poster Presentation

Hospital Patients Libraries

Presenter: Yu Kikuchi



Yu Kikuchi and colleague

The project "Library services for the persons with special needs - determining the problem of reading and writing causing the changes in the behaviour of juvenile in the young offenders institutions in Croatia"

Presenter: Ms Dunja-Marija Gabriel



Dunja-Marija Gabriel

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Article

Prison libraries in Norway

Erlend Ra

Adviser, Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority*

Over the last few years there has been a substantial rise in the funding of Norwegian prison libraries. This has been most welcome in a situation where several prisons lack libraries and increased costs at existing prison libraries mean a lower service level and increased strain on the librarians providing the services.

The Norwegian Public Library Act states that the funding of prison libraries is a government responsibility, whereas public libraries in general are funded by local authorities. The current service model is formalized by contracts between the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority and the local authorities, and contracts between the public libraries and the prisons. The public libraries contribute with staff and media, while the prisons provide physical facilities and equipment.

This model for organizing library services is the outcome of a project undertaken in 1980. Prior to this prisons were fully responsible for providing library services. A survey carried out a few years earlier (1976), showed that library services in Norwegian prisons were inadequate, and that there was a need for upgrading the services. The project was carried out in four prisons to find solutions to the challenges faced by the Norwegian prison system. The participating libraries had a loan rate at 47 loans per inmate per year, showing the importance and popularity of the prison libraries. Due to this the Norwegian parliament decided to make this model for organizing library services permanent from 1984, and in the following years several other prison libraries were established. Although there were still unresolved needs by the end of the decade, only two new prison libraries were established in the years 1989-2004. In addition a significant rise in book prices and salaries, which was not compensated by an equal rise in

library budgets, made the situation even more difficult for existing prison libraries. In some instances the library resources budget decreased to almost zero, and in other instances libraries had to reduce the number of staff, which resulted in difficult working conditions for the librarians and a decrease in the quality of the services.

In 2002, a two-day conference addressed these issues from a variety of perspectives. A year later this was followed up by yet another conference with a number of speakers including representatives from the Norwegian government and members of Parliament. The importance of the services, now indicated by a loan rate at approximately 100 loans per inmate per year, was beyond dispute. Furthermore, the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority had conducted a survey which gave an overview of the services provided by all Norwegian prisons, including those which did not receive government funding. The findings were presented at the conference, and the conclusion was as expected, quite clear: there was a great need to increase the number of prison libraries and the grants to existing prison libraries. A decision all participants fully approved. Following the conference the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority published a booklet which presents facts and perspectives on the subject of prison libraries.

The first sign of improvement came in 2005, when government funding allowed for two new prison libraries

to be established. In 2006 another three prison libraries were funded and the conditions in the existing prison libraries were substantially improved. Furthermore, a substantial increase in the funding for 2007 is proposed. In total, there was an increase in the government grants from NOK 4,800,000 (EUR 575,000) in 2004 to NOK 10,500,000 (EUR 1,300,000) in 2007. The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority is responsible for the distribution of these funds. With the significant increase of funding, there was a need to look at differences in the level of funding amongst the existing prison libraries, and the amounts necessary for establishing and running new prison libraries. We have found the 1995 edition of the IFLA guidelines (1) most helpful in working out the budgets necessary for running prison libraries. Currently the largest prison library, which receives government funding, serves a prison population of approximately 200 and the smallest prison library serves less than 50. There was a need to differentiate between these prisons, and we have defined a minimum prison library budget to be NOK 320,000 (EUR 40,000), which is sufficient to employ a half-time librarian in addition to library resources and other expenditure. The largest prison libraries have budgets sufficient to employ a full time librarian, resources and other expenditure amounting to NOK 600,000 (EUR 75,000).

The minimum cost of a prison library determines the size of prisons that should be served by a regular prison library. In our opinion, the

