

## 80<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Assembly Lyon, France 16-22 August 2014



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The theme of this year's IFLA Conference, held in Lyon between 16 – 22 August, was *Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge*. I hadn't thought about its full significance until I arrived in Lyon, the second largest city in France after Paris, situated, indeed, at the *confluence* of two of the largest French rivers: the Rhone and the Saone. The place that inspired such a generous theme proved to be not only an excellent venue for the Conference, but it also charmed everyone with its majestic views over the two rivers, its architecture and beautiful parks, its museums and history going back to the ancient times, and, not least, the warm and stylish hospitality of its people.

We had a first demonstration of the French hospitality at the Satellite Session of the *Health and Biosciences Section*, which was held on Friday, 15th August, at the Library of the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1, situated, like the International Congress Center, near the vast park "La Tête d'Or" (the park of the Golden Head). The satellite session constitutes an excellent occasion to meet and see one another before the main event starts, and also meet the "local" medical librarians or colleagues who do not attend the IFLA conference as such – for instance colleagues from Lausanne drove just for the day to attend this session. The theme was "Health librarians and the changing information landscape"; the morning was chaired by Brian Galvin, from the Health Research Board, Dublin, who is also the President of the Standing Committee of the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section (HBLs). Dr. Yves Zerbib from the host university delivered the keynote speech, followed by presentations by Elizabeth Chapman and Barbara Sen, from the Information School, Sheffield University, Judy Consales (the secretary of the HBLs) and Linda Walton (President of the MLA), and Jacqueline MacDonald, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, Canada, who sparked vivid debates with her paper "Health Librarianship and Health Informatics. Natural Convergence or Managed Change?". In the afternoon there were another three presentations, by Amal Wagib, University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Brian Galvin and David Benoist, Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Santé, Paris. The day finished with a tour of the hosting Library and generous sampling of cheese and wine.

There were two meetings of the HBL Section, both chaired by Brian Galvin, in which we tackled the routine business matters. Among them, there were reports from the MLA, AHILA and EAHIL; I reported on the Rome Conference and made the invitation for the next Workshop in Edinburgh. The 12th ICML will be held in Dublin in 2017 and it will coincide with the EAHIL Annual Workshop, precise dates to be established. We also discussed the theme for the next IFLA Conference that will be held in Capetown, South Africa, 15-21 August 2015, while our American colleagues launched the invitation for the 2016 IFLA in Columbus, Ohio. The main oral presentation session was a joint session with the Information Literacy Section, with the theme "It's public knowledge: understanding health literacy from an information science perspective". There were 6 papers presented, very well received and discussed. They will be published in full on the IFLA Conference site, please look for session 88 at: <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80/programme-and-proceedings-full-printable#monday-18-august-2014>.

Though there is so much to say about the other sessions, the posters, the informal talks with so many colleagues, I shall stop at two outstanding events, which, in my opinion define the 2014 IFLA Conference. The first is the Opening Session, marked by the keynote speech by Bernard Stiegler, one of the most important French philosophers at present, and the presentation of the first ever motion films by the Lumière brothers. The other one is the launching of the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development, which is an advocacy document that will be used to positively influence the content of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.