

**International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions  
Latin America and Caribbean Section**

**Report, August 2009 – August 2010**

As of August 2010, the Latin America and the Caribbean Section of IFLA had 113 members under the diverse membership and affiliate modalities from diverse countries of the region. These members included: two international associations, sixteen national associations, seventy-seven institutions, twenty-six personal memberships and two student members.

Over the last year, we have continued working in close collaboration with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP), FAIFE and regional library associations.

The IFLA/LAC Standing Committee currently is formed by ten members, elected to sit for the term 2007-2011, and eight members for the term 2009-2013. Likewise, and according to new IFLA's statutes and rules of procedure, the following corresponding members for the term 2009-2011 were appointed:

Mercedes Falconi (Ecuador)  
Adriana Betancourt (Colombia)  
Estela Morales (Mexico)  
Octavio Castillo (Panama)  
Jaime Ríos (Mexico)

Moreover, diverse members have been invited to collaborate in different working groups of the Standing Committee, participating in an active way.

**Attendance to Meetings**

As President of the Latin America and the Caribbean Section, I was invited to participate in the following meetings:

Division V, Leadership Forum. This meeting was held on August 23, 2009, during the IFLA General Conference in Milan, Italy. In this meeting I was elected Secretary of the Division V (Regional Activities).

“Internet y bibliotecas en la Sociedad de la Información y el Conocimiento del Siglo XXI [Internet and Libraries in the Information and Knowledge Society of the Twenty-first Century]”, meeting held in Lima, Peru, on October 20, 2009. I participated in this meeting along with Stuart Hamilton, IFLA Senior Policy Advisor, and Loida García-Febo, Secretary of the FAIFE Committee. The conference titled “IFLA/UNESCO

Internet Guidelines: the role of libraries in its dissemination and implementation” was presented at this meeting.

“II Seminario Latino Americano y Caribeño de los Servicios Bibliotecarios para Ciegos y Débiles Visuales [Second Latinamerican and Caribbean Seminar on Library Services for the Blind and Vision Impaired]”, held in the City of Joao Pesoa, Paraiba, Brazil, from November 20 to 23. The conference titled “Library services for vision impaired users in the age of information” was presented in this meeting.

Participation in the “IFLA Workshop of Experts on Library Statistics,” held in the Hague from December 8 to 10, 2009. This workshop was intended to prepare the program and materials for a workshop on statistics role in library advocacy. This workshop is part of the workshops included in the program “Building Strong Library Associations” (BSLA). The workshop shall be offered in Spanish during the IFLA General Meeting in August 2010 in Gothenburg.

Participation with Ana María Talavera (Peru), in the “BLSA Trainers Meeting Workshop,” at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague, from July 13 to 16, 2010. The objective of this workshop was to analyze the BSLA Program and to make staffing decisions for the training program for the Colegio de Bibliotecólogos del Perú.

### **Activities with FAIFE**

Work with FAIFE has continued and remained close. We have collaborated in the organization of the following workshops and activities:

Phase Three of the IFLA/FAIFE Workshop on Instructors Training for the IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto, held in Cuzco, Peru, from October 19 to 25, 2009. The purpose of this workshop was to meet with instructors who received training in March 2009 and evaluate the impact of workshops carried out in diverse regions of Peru. Stuart Hamilton, Loida García-Febo and me led this workshop.

Collaboration with the Mexican Librarians Association (AMBAC) for organizing the Workshop on Information Resources for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS, held during the Fortieth Mexican Librarians Association Annual Meeting, in September 2010 at Acapulco, Guerrero. The workshop was sponsored by FAIFE and IFLA/LAC. Alejandra Martínez del Prado from the UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) School of Medicine Libraries served as instructor.

With the support of FAIFE, IFLA/LAC and the AMBAC, the First Latin American Meeting on Libraries and Medical Information Proceedings were published. This meeting was organized and held in November 2008, at the UNAM School of Medicine.

### **Meetings Organization**

The Latin America and Caribbean Internship Program in Library Technologies was organized and coordinated. This event was held from September 17 to October 16, 2009. Fifteen libraries from the following countries participated: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay

and Mexico. Fifty applications were received to participate in the program. The selection was carried out taking into account advice and opinions from the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee members and library associations of the region.

The program was conceived as a training strategy to allow participants “to learn by doing and seeing,” in order to improve the professional practice of librarians in Latin America through direct involvement in the actual workplace. This experience was complemented by a set of conferences and lectures on real experiences and procedures by librarians and scholars from the General Direction for Libraries and the University Center for Library Science Research (CUIB) of UNAM. The program also included visits to libraries that have excelled in the application of information technology in their activities and services. Participants pledged to share and multiply the internship experience among colleges and institutions of their respective countries, in collaboration with local library associations.

ALP Program Coordinator Fiona Bradley, Ana María Talavera (Peru), and me met from June 14 to 16, 2010, with the Colegio de Bibliotecólogos del Perú and a group of outstanding Peruvian librarians in Lima, Peru. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a work plan for the BSLA program in that country for the period 2010-2011.

Program: “Library Services in Latin America/Servicios Bibliotecarios en América Latina”. This program was organized in conjunction with REFORMA (the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking in the United States of America), and took place as part of the American Library Association Annual Conference, June 24 to 29, 2010 in Washington, D.C. The program’s purpose was to provide a forum for Latin American librarians to show their colleagues working with Latino communities in the United States innovative and successful cases developed in Latin America libraries and thereby promote an exchange of experiences on these matters. The call for papers was developed and distributed, and three proposals were selected from among twelve submitted. The selected papers were: “Scope of the cooperation programs of the Library of Congress and the PCC in Latin America”; “The Virtual Library of Latin America” and “Program to promote reading through mobile libraries: an opportunity for children in deprived areas of Tegucigalpa”.

IFLA General Conference in Gothenburg. A call for papers was elaborated and disseminated among librarians, academics and other professionals to participate in the IFLA/LAC Conference in Gothenburg. Ten submissions were received and evaluated by the Standing Committee, which ultimately selected two. These proposals were included into the Section program along with papers from invited lecturers for being presented at the IFLA Annual Meeting in Gothenburg. The program included the following conferences: “Science visualization in Latin America: the challenge for Library and Information Science in the region during 35 years,” Adolfo Rodríguez Gallardo (Mexico); “Open access to cultural heritage in Latin America,” Emir José Suaiden (Brazil); “Information systems and models to assemble—actions within an underprivileged district in Lima, Peru,” Guillermo García Capcha (Peru); “Copyright exceptions benefitting libraries: the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean,” Juan Carlos Fernández Molina (Spain) and José Augusto Chavez Guimares (Brazil).

### **Additional activities**

The call for papers “IFLA Award to the Best LIS Student Paper 2010,” sponsored by the Standing Committee of the IFLA Education and Training Section and the EKZ Company was promoted. It is worthy to point out that two Latin American students received the second and the third prize in this contest. These students were David Ricardo Ramírez Ordóñez (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia), whose paper titled “Multimedia production in Columbian public libraries: using Creative Commons in public libraries to enrich free multimedia content” was awarded second place, and Jonathan Hernández Pérez, (National Autonomous University of Mexico), who garnered third place for his paper titled “The interactions between Google and librarianship: the experience of Mexico”.

Collaboration with Stuart Hamilton to translate IFLA communications to Spanish language members to invite them to support national representatives to the Committee on Copyright and Related Rights of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for answering the questionnaire this organization sent to them, dealing with exceptions and limitations of copyright in educational spheres, libraries, archives, and digital technology, those for impaired persons, as well as those related to social, cultural and religious activities, among other ones.

Taking into account that IFLA 2011 Congress will be celebrated in San Juan, Puerto Rico, a call for proposals was sent out to countries from the region for sponsoring and organizing satellite meetings. Four proposals for satellite meetings were received and they were endorsed by IFLA/LAC to send them to the IFLA Professional Committee for analysis and approval. One proposal dealing with art libraries was sent by the Art Section of the Mexican Library Association; another one on public libraries was sent by the La Salle University Program for Information Systems, Library Science and Archives, Bogota Colombia; a third one on cataloguing was sent by the UNAM University Center for Library Science Research, and a fourth one dealing with school libraries was submitted by the Panama Library Association and the National Library of Panama. Only the first one was approved and it was discussed with the IFLA Art Section in its Gothenburg meeting for preparing it. The remaining three were not accepted.

In light of the earthquakes in Haiti on January 12, and in Chile on February 27, the Section contacted colleagues in those countries in order to send information to IFLA and the Blue Shield. With regard to this matter, it is important to stress the liaison role played by Danielle Mincio, Secretary of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section and member of the IFLA Governing Board, and Marie Françoise Bernabe of the IFLA/LAC Committee. Information on these issues can be found in the following links:

<http://www.ifla.org/en/haiti-earthquake-2010>

<http://www.ifla.org/en/news/solidarity-with-chilean-librarians>

Finally, it is important to highlight the efforts done by the Regional Office and the President and Secretary of IFLA/LAC to keep Standing Committee and Section members abreast of events through electronic discussion lists.

Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano

IFLA/LAC Chair  
Gothenburg, August, 2010