LBE January 2014 Newsletter

The semi-annual newsletter of the Library and Equipment Equipment Section of IFLA

Library@Chinatown Singapore
by Janine Schmidt + Inger Edebro Sikström

During the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2013 in Singapore, Barbara Stripling (President of the American Library Association), Janine Schmidt and Inger Edebro Sikström (corresponding committee member respective member of the Library Buildings and Equipment's Standing Committee) visited the library in Chinatown, *library@chinatown.*[1]

left to right:
Janine Schmidt, Library Manager, Inger Edebro Sikström, Barbara Stripling (President of ALA)

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[1] It is part of the public library service of the National Library Board of Singapore. Link to National Library Board of SIngapore Article Viewed 8th September, 2013

Together we can make a difference

The Library is located in the Chinatown Point shopping mall adjacent to the subway station in Chinatown. Situated at the top of the mall, it is clearly visible from one of the exits of the subway and from the shops below. It includes large group rooms for library programs, reading and study areas, a children's zone, and collections, virtual and real, in multiple languages.

The Library is a remarkably successful partnership between the National Library Board of Singapore, the shopping mall and the local temple. It is thanks to the owner of the Chinatown Point Mall that it became a library, with the transfer by deed of one thousand square meters to the library, free of charge. It was considered that the presence of the library would increase traffic to and through the shopping mall – and this goal has been achieved. The Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple[2] has provided funding and the selection of media is done by the National Library (NLB). The facility is completely embedded in the community. It is Singapore's first library with a profile emphasizing Chinese art and culture.
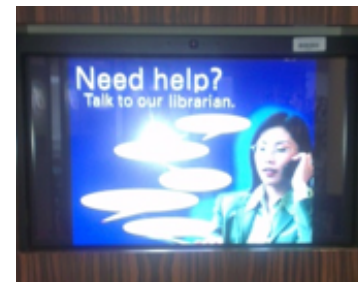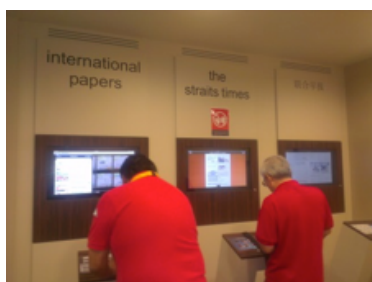

New Approach to Customer Service

The Library has almost no full-time staff. Many of the services are "virtual" and a team of fifty volunteers who shelve material and assist in a variety of ways. The library is open between 11 am and 9 pm every day and attracts around 2 000 visitors each day.

Grandparents come in the afternoon, collect grandchildren from school and read to them in the children's section of the Library and help with homework. Questions that the volunteers are not able to answer can be made to a "cybrarian", which is a central reference service. It is an online service that works roughly the same as Skype or Facetime, assistance and one can see the person offering assistance.

View of the library from the shopping center

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[2] Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple, Singapore. Wikipedia article. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwan_Im_Thong_Hood_Cho_Temple
Viewed 8th September, 2013

The Collections

The library@chinatown has around 30 000 books, mostly in Chinese, and English, but also in Malay and Tamil since all four are official languages in Singapore. Newspapers are a popular inclusion and viewed virtually and in print. Library users can read, listen to lectures, look at an exhibition, use an e-book reader, or learn to use various forms of technology.
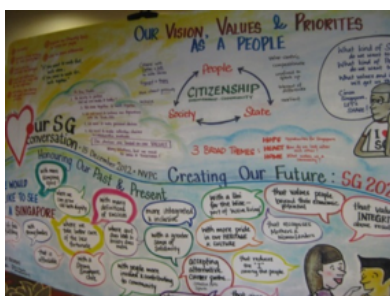
Hope, Heart and Home

It is thanks to the local support of those living in Chinatown that such a novel and unique concept can be developed. On entry, visitors are confronted by a wall painting that illustrates the result of the work of creating a common vision for all those who live in Chinatown. The vision is based on three themes:

- **Hope** What opportunities do we have?

- **Heart** How do we take care of each other?

- **Home** What makes us a "community"?

Success?

Singapore National Library (NLB) is experimenting to determine how the Library can develop facilities and services to meet client needs in a cost-effective way. So far it is an experiment which seems to be succeeding admirably. *Library@Chinatown* has been chosen as an example of best practice in the new report from *INELI: Building Libraries for Tomorrow*,[3] which explores key factors and spaces required for successful library building projects. Others can learn much from the Chinatown experiment in Singapore.

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[3] INELI is a part of the Bill and Melinda Gates International Network of Emerging Library Innovators. The INELI cohort 1 collaborative project report report Building libraries for tomorrow by Jakob Laerkes and Batti Manolis is available at: http://www.geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/pdfs/Board-Report-Attachment4-Sept-16-2013.pdf and a presentation on the topic by Jakob Laerkes, Kari Lamsa and Patti Manolis is at http://presentations.nextlibrary.net/next2013/Laerkes_Kari_Patti_Reimagining_Future_Library_Buildings_Interractive_session_Cut.pdf Viewed 8th September, 2013

A visit to Malaysia: The library of the Technical University of Malaysia - Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) by Dr Dorothea Sommer

After the Congress IFLA offered a range of organized library visits, among which there was an opportunity offered outside of Singapore: a visit of the library of the Technical University of Malaysia.

The Technical University of Malaysia and its libraries are situated in two locations: in the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, and in Johor Bahru, the Southern City in Iskandar Malaysia, north of Singapore. So on August 23rd 2013, many participants of the Congress took the bus ride to the library, known as Perpustakaan Sultanah Zanariah (PSZ), on the main campus in Skudai in the South of Malaysia. After passing the borders of Singapore and Malaysia, the IFLA delegates were brought to the large campus of the Technical University where biker escorts in white uniforms met the delegation at the entry and guided the buses through the 2.400 acres of the campus to the Library, which is prominently situated on campus, next to a Mosque named after Masjid Sultan Ismail. Like the country Malaysia, which has the Islam as a state religion, this applies also to its Technical University.

The origins of the oldest public engineering and technological University date back to the year 1904, when a Technical College was founded in Kuala Lumpur. In 1975 it became a University and in 2012 it attained full autonomy from the government, which permits the best selection of both regional students as well as from abroad. Today the university has 22.000 students with a considerable amount of foreign students from Asian neighbor countries, the Middle East and Africa and about 2.000 members of staff. The library serves the faculties of Engineering, Built Environment, Sciences and Human Resources Development, including a Center for Islamic studies and social development. The campus itself was opened only in 1985 – it goes back to an initiative of Sultan Ibrahim, the first chancellor of UTM, who moved the University from Kuala Lumpur where there was not enough space to this region in the South. The campus is dominated by lush green vegetation and white buildings, which are arranged according to a ring structure, which is the general pattern of the campus. There is free wireless internet connectivity provided throughout campus, free bus services, as well as local and international restaurants. Students are accommodated in hostels with Malaysian style roofs.

The current library building is a functional four storey concrete building, which offers a seating capacity of 3.422 reader's places. The collection itself comprises only about half a million volumes, but since most operations and services are computerized it offers access to a range of databases both online and on CD-ROM as well as electronic media. One example which caught the eye is the SPIE Digital Library (see photo) – the world's largest collection of optics and photonics applied research.

The library strives to become a Knowledge center of Excellence in Science and Technology. It has received national library awards and the MS ISO 9002 (1998) and MS ISO 9001: 2008 Quality awards. Since 2007 it has developed the first electronic repository in Malaysia. Apart from the central library there are also 11 branch libraries administered, including locations in Kuala Lumpur. The library has 179 members of staff.

The campus in Skudai, however, will soon have a new library in Malaysian style, which shall be finished in December 2013. Unfortunately it was not possible to see plans or get an impression of the building site – we hope we will receive information once the building is finished. At present you can access the library under the following address:

http://ent.library.utm.my/client/main

Text & Photos: Dorothea Sommer

CALL FOR PAPERS

IFLA Satellite Conference Call for Papers, Paris France

Theme: Space and collections earning their keep: Transformation, technologies, retooling
Date: 12-14 August 2014
Venue: Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations (BULAC), Paris, France
Link to call for papers:
http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80/calls-for-papers/space-and-collections-earning-their-keep-transformation-technologies

Please disseminate this call for papers as widely as possible

CALL FOR PAPERS
Satellite Meeting – IFLA World Library and Information Congress
Section for Library Buildings and Equipment and Section Acquisition and Collection Development
August 12-14, 2014, Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations (BULAC), France

Main Theme:

Space and collections earning their keep: Transformation, Technologies, Retooling

Library buildings and their interior spaces should be closely related to their functions. Traditionally they have served as book and journal storage spaces offering access to diverse physical collections. Today, following numerous social and technological changes, libraries need to retool their services. Physical as well as digital collections have to "cohabit" within a building. The transformation in information technology had had an enormous impact on users' research behaviour which in turn demands new discovery environments. Access and use of media have to be organized according to the manifold needs of users and with regard to the opportunities of mobile technology.   As a result, different types of collections and the needs of the users compete for priority in library spaces. These need more than ever to be flexible and adaptable in the future. Architects must seek to provide solutions for the integration of and access to physical and also digital media.

The Library Buildings & Equipment Standing Committee and the Acquisition and Collection Development Standing Committee are looking for papers that highlight how public, academic and research communities in different regions of the world provide high quality, adaptable and innovative library spaces meeting the needs of different users.

Sessions will be organized around the following topics:

-    Transformation in information technology and the development of digital and physical collections

-    Development of new discovery and access tools to media

-    Case studies and design solutions for retooling library services to enable improved access, use and presentation of collections in different formats;

-    Examples of excellence in library architecture that reflects form and function;

-     Adaptation of space to meet the different demands of changing collections and patterns of use.

Presenters can include examples from the public, academic and research library world. The theme of WLIC 2014, "Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge" should provide the context of the presentation.

Paper Submission

The IFLA Library Building and Equipment Section and the Acquisition and Collection Development Section welcome submissions of abstracts from prospective presenters on any of these broad themes. From among the

abstracts received, 3 – 5 papers on each topic will be selected for presentation at the satellite meeting. Papers may describe recent projects relevant to the themes listed above. Papers may also offer a more speculative viewpoint, with forecasts of how library architecture and building design will need to change in order to meet the challenges of information diversity.

The following should be provided:
- name and institution of presenter(s)
- an abstract of the paper describing the project, campaign or research carried out (1 page, up to 350 words) preferably in English
- relevant biographical information of author(s)/presenter(s)

Please send your proposals by 14 February 2014 via e-mail to the chair of the LBE section Dorothea Sommer (dorothea.sommer@bibliothek.uni-halle.de) and the chair of the ACD section Joseph Hafner (joseph.hafner@mcgill.ca).

The abstracts will be reviewed and selected by a Review Committee. The paper can be given at the Satellite meeting in any of IFLA's official languages, but preferably in English. Successful proposals will be identified and announced by March 15, 2013.

If a paper is selected authors must commit to presenting it in Paris.

All presenters and their papers will be listed in the programme of the conference. Therefore presenters must forward the full text of their papers by May 16, 2014 to allow time for review. The time allowed for the presentation will be 40 minutes. Papers should be no longer than 20 pages.

Conference Registration
The registration fee is 100 Euro per person depending on prevailing exchange rates). The important dates related to registration are shown as below.
More information about conference registration will be available on the website

http://iflasection20.org/space-and-collections-earning-their-keep-transformation-technologies-and-re-tooling/

after the paper selection process. Please note that all expenses, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodation etc., are the responsibility of the authors/ presenters. No financial support can be provided by IFLA, but a special invitation can be issued to authors/ presenters.

Start of online registration and payment receipt
March 30, 2014
Standard registration fees deadline
August 4, 2014
Onsite registration (cash only + no refund)
August 12, 2014

Jointly organized by

IFLA Library buildings and Equipment Section
IFLA Acquisition and Collection Development Section
Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations (BULAC), France

IFLA Open Session Conference Call for Papers, Lyon, France

Theme: Special Places for Special Collections.
Date: 15-20 August 2014
Venue: WLIC 2014 in Lyon, France
Link to call for papers:
http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80/calls-for-papers/special-places-special-collections

Please disseminate this call for papers as widely as possible

CALL FOR PAPERS
SESSION jointly hosted by the Section for Library Buildings and Equipment and the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
 with the Preservation and Conservation Section
in Lyon, France
at the 80th World Library and Information Congress, 16 – 22 August 2014

Session title: Special Places for Special Collections

Memorable library architecture and the application of integrated, attractive designs that reflect excellence and combine solutions for buildings, sites and interiors enables users to capture the spirit and function of a place and to attach a meaning or quality to a space and the importance of its collections. Libraries, in particular academic and research libraries, often hold collections of rare and special materials that encompass a wide range of documentary formats and other media. These include historic and modern books, manuscripts and archives, music and maps, photographs and sound recordings as well as digital archives. New technologies and different formats require new designs of buildings and a careful curatorship of spaces in order to provide the widest possible access as well as an appropriate and secure presentation of both physical and virtual special collections.

The Library Buildings & Equipment and the Rare Books and Manuscripts Standing Committees together with the Preservation and Conservation Committee are calling for papers which showcase recent building solutions and room concepts for Special Collections. These should reflect an understanding of and response to users' needs in the consultation of rare or special collections in a collaborative scholarly environment. They should explore innovative design solutions for the use, presentation, teaching and exhibition of special collections as well as address appropriate security issues and storage facilities.

The Sections are particularly interested in innovative projects responding to new functional demands for the architecture and the design of hybrid libraries with collections of diverse and special formats. We would like the programme to have a balance between theoretical approaches devoted to aspects of library architecture and design solutions with regard to special collections and best practice case studies, which have proven to have met the different needs of the user. Presentations can draw on examples both from renovated as well as newly built spaces.

The theme of WLIC 2014, "Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for knowledge" should provide the context of the presentation.

The following should be provided by those responding to the call:
- name and institution of presenter(s)
- an abstract of the paper describing the project or research carried
  out (1 page, up to 350 words) preferably in English
- relevant biographical information of author(s)/presenter(s)

Please send your proposals by 31 January 2014 via e-mail to both the Chair of the LBE section Dorothea Sommer (dorothea.sommer@bibliothek.uni-halle.de), and to the Information Coordinator of the RBMS section Edwin C. Schroeder (edwin.schroeder@yale.edu).

The abstracts will be reviewed by a Review Committee and the papers selected will be announced by 7 March 2014. The paper can be given at the congress in any of IFLA's official languages.

If a paper is selected authors must commit to presenting it in Lyon.

All presenters and their papers will be listed in the final IFLA Programme. Therefore presenters must forward the full text of their papers by 30 April 2014 to allow time for review and for preparation of translations. Presentations should not take longer than 25 minutes to deliver and papers should be no longer than 20 pages.

In accordance with IFLA's Open Access Statement all papers presented at the WLIC 2013 will be available under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 licence. Authors of submitted papers will need to sign IFLA's Author form. The papers and presentations will be made available through the IFLA Library.

Expenses:

Please note that it is the presenters' responsibility to find funding for their participation (registration fee, travel, accommodation and associated costs). IFLA is not in a position to fund attendance at the Congress. An exception can be made for speakers from outside the profession who would not normally attend congress. They can register free of charge for the day on which they speak.