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ABSTRACT

This brochure provides information on the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) core program for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP), which was launched in 1984 to further the library profession, library institutions, and library and information services in less developed countries. Program objectives are summarized, and goals and plans for 1992-97 are discussed. Within the Special ALP areas the goals are: (1) to assist library staff, library schools, and library associations in education and training programs; (2) to promote the establishment and development of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas; and (3) to encourage greater involvement and identification of libraries with literacy work. The ALP International Focal Point located at Uppsala University Library in Sweden, and IFLA's Division of Regional Activities with its three regional offices for Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean are described. Guidelines for ALP project applications are provided, including information about project areas, relevant criteria, necessary information to be submitted, and the annual procedure and schedule for project handling. A directory of IFLA headquarters and ALP offices is included. (MES)

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The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

**IFLA's Core Programme
for the Advancement of Librarianship
in the Third World – ALP**

IFLA ALP Core Programme

A general information brochure, issued by IFLA Headquarters,
POB 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands.

**More details about
the activities mentioned in
this brochure can be obtained
by contacting the International Focal Point
or your Regional Office.**

See addresses on pp. 10-11

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BACKGROUND

IFLA

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, IFLA, is a worldwide independent non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1927 and its Headquarters is located in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The majority of its members are library associations, libraries and library schools.

IFLA endeavours to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity and to be the international voice of librarianship.

IFLA has 1284 members spread throughout 135 countries. Of these, 85 are developing countries.

IFLA's Core Programmes

IFLA has five Core Programmes:

- Universal Availability of Publications (UAP)
- Universal Bibliographic Control and International Marc (UBCIM)
- Preservation and Conservation (PAC)
- Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT)
- Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP)

The professional activities of the Core Programmes are run from permanent offices (sometimes referred to as International Focal Points) hosted by the following institutions:

- British Library Document Supply Centre, Boston Spa, United Kingdom (UAP Programme)
- Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt, Germany (UBCIM Programme)
- Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France (PAC Programme)
- National Library of Canada, Ottawa, Canada (UDT Programme)
- Uppsala University Library, Uppsala, Sweden (ALP Programme)

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For more information see the brochure, *IFLA Core Programmes*, which describes in detail the aims and activities of IFLA's other Core Programmes. It is available from IFLA Headquarters.

THE ALP PROGRAMME

The ALP Programme was launched in 1984 at the IFLA Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and was the subject of intensive discussion between 1987 and 1989. It was further developed and defined during 1990 and 1991 as a special project and is now fully operational.

Programme Concept

The purpose of IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World is to further the library profession, library institutions and library and information services in less developed countries.

It thus spans a wide spectrum of library activities and plays an important role within the organization as a catalyst for its Third World activities. ALP particularly concentrates on issues which are of vital importance for the developing countries and which do not always fall within the responsibility of the other subject-oriented core programmes. For the next medium-term period 1992-1997 these issues have been identified as: education and training, library and information services to the general public and a greater involvement of librarians with literacy programmes.

Programme Objectives

The objectives of ALP are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries so as to enable them to play an active role in national development. Special emphasis will be placed on the creation of conditions likely to contribute towards national initiatives and systematic progress towards self-sufficiency.

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The programme should encourage national and regional library organizations and explore the ways and means of promoting practical and meaningful relations between IFLA and these organizations.

ALP will also play an active role in the coordination of international efforts to support the development of library and information services in Third World countries by cooperating with other organizations (such as Unesco, FID, IBBY, organizations which promote reading, and bodies involved in developmental work).

Within IFLA, the development of the special ALP areas requires close cooperation with IFLA's Division of Libraries Serving the General Public and the Division of Education and Research. Furthermore, cooperative activities are now being planned with the Sections for Education and Training, Libraries Serving the Blind and Public Libraries. Cooperation has also been established with Sections of other Divisions, such as Government Information and Official Publications. Cooperation with the other Core Programmes is a constant element in ALP professional activities.

WORK PLAN AND GOALS FOR 1992-1997

Major problem areas have been identified for ALP to tackle during the period of IFLA's next Medium-Term Programme 1992-1997 and some strategies have been devised to address them. Projects and other activities will gradually be developed in accordance with these strategies. More than twenty different projects and other activities have already been recommended by the Regional Advisory Committees and have started in 1991-92 or will start soon. An updated list of approved projects and other activities can be obtained from the ALP International Focal Point in Uppsala.

Within the Special ALP areas the goals are:

To assist library staff, library schools and library associations in education and training programmes.

There is a chronic need for education and training in the developing countries. ALP will therefore concentrate primarily on continuing education and on those areas where the need is the greatest. New technology and preservation are current fields of interest. However, there is a great need for basic training, for example for those working with library and information services in rural areas who have no library education, and for librarians who want to work with programmes to promote reading. Scholarships are needed both for people who need training in specific aspects of librarianship and for people who need to complete a basic library education.

This is a broad programme area which should be developed gradually.

Activities which are planned include a series of workshops in Africa on micro-computer applications, and in Asia ALP will fund a number of scholarships for librarians from the least developed countries to attend courses at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. A joint PAC/ALP Seminar in Africa will also address training needs. In Asia and Oceania,

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the programme will provide financial support for in-service training or attachments for junior or senior staff under 40 years of age in libraries which offer state-of-the-art training in special areas. The idea might also be developed in the other regions.

The programme will support the work and development of national and regional library associations.

There is also a need for better knowledge about professional expertise within the regions. As it is today the library and information resources in the Third World are often less well known than those of the industrialized countries - foreign experts are often engaged because of a lack of awareness of national expertise. ALP will therefore contribute to the construction of referral databases or databanks containing information about libraries, librarians and library education in the developing countries.

A publications programme will be set up. Library schools all over the world need to give their students access to literature in relevant languages. There is also a manifest need to improve access by library staff to professional literature, through subventions, perhaps via the Regional Offices of IFLA. These offices issue newsletters which are important vehicles for IFLA information and should be given strong support.

To promote the establishment and development of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas.

The situation and therefore the priorities differ from region to region in this programme area. In Latin America there are some very well developed public library systems but there is also a very great desire and need to complement these with alternative library and information systems to reach new groups of users in urban marginal areas and in remote border areas, and to meet the needs of minority cultures. Projects and training activities will be developed to meet these needs. A seminar

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on *Library Services to the Visually Handicapped* for the whole region will be held in Cuba in February 1983 in co-operation with the Section of Libraries Serving the Blind.

The Medium-Term Programme for Africa focuses on the development of library and information services in remote rural areas as well as in urban marginal areas. Projects for the establishment of community information centres will be supported. In this field, cooperation will take place with other IFLA bodies as well as with COMLA, Unesco and others. A conference which describes the progress of these developments and draw up guidelines for future work is scheduled for 1994.

In Asia this programme area will mainly be developed through a series of educational activities. The first event took place in the fall of 1991.

To encourage a greater involvement and identification of libraries with literacy work.

Literacy work was identified in the Medium-Term Programme as a programme area of great importance. The strong arguments for this were clarified, but the work plan was not very detailed. The reason is very simple - literacy work is to some degree something of a *terra incognita* for librarians - we know very little about what libraries have meant or could mean to literacy and post-literacy processes, and we also know little about methodology.

Nevertheless, the work plan for the Medium-Term Programme 1992-1997 is clear. A double approach will be used which implies encouraging some pilot projects which represent different aspects of the complex issue, and initiating research and development. Two pilot projects will aim at librarians, one a continuation of the African IFLA-Unesco seminar to develop librarians' knowledge and understanding of illiteracy as a basis for reading promotion activities, and one in Thailand and Laos where librarians will work with writers, illustrators and publishers to produce children's books. Libraries are the focus of two other project proposals,

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one to investigate libraries as resource centres which can acquire, register, make known, and to a certain extent produce appropriate material for new readers, and the other one involving efforts to reach disadvantaged groups with reading material and information services.

ALP INTERNATIONAL FOCAL POINT

The International Focal Point is located at Uppsala University Library in Sweden. Its activities are funded by Nordic libraries and Library Associations. It is staffed by a full-time Core Programme Director and a part-time Research Officer. It supports the development of the programme, co-ordinates its activities, acts as a knowledge centre and engages in fundraising activities. After the period of the next IFLA Medium-Term Programme (1992-1997), IFLA will actively seek to move the International Focal Point to one of the regions.

ALP AND IFLA'S DIVISION OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

IFLA's Division of Regional Activities, with its three Sections (for Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean) has been active for many years. Representatives of these Sections form the Division's Coordinating Board, which now acts as an advisory body for the ALP Programme.

IFLA has established one office in each region. They are located in Dakar, Senegal (hosted by the Cheikh Anta Diop University), at Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand (co-hosted by the Thai Library Association) and in Sao Paulo, Brazil (hosted by the Brazilian Library Federation, FEBAB). The managers of these Regional Offices also work very closely with the ALP International Focal Point to support and develop the programme. The Regional Newsletters are important vehicles for information about the ALP Programme as well as the general library and information situation in the regions.

GUIDELINES FOR ALP PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Project applications can be made to the ALP Programme for support to librarians, library associations, library schools or others who want to develop co-operation, knowledge and services within the special programme areas of ALP.

Project Areas

The three special programme areas of ALP are:

- Education and training;
- Promotion of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas;
- Greater identification and involvement of libraries with literacy programmes.

Criteria

The following criteria are relevant:

- The project should be of relevance to several countries in the sub-region or region;
- Or, if it is national, it should lend itself to development as a model or pilot project, able to be repeated in other countries;
- It should have the support of relevant authorities or organizations;
- It should fit into the current Medium Term Programme of ALP;
- Projects can not be supported if their main aim is to provide buildings or equipment.

Information that must be submitted

- Background and justification (the needs/problems, the general situation including the roles of local authorities and organizations);
- Objectives (in concrete, realistic and measurable terms);
- Target group (Who will benefit? Participation?);
- Institutional framework (responsible organization/institution and its national standing);

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- Person responsible (qualifications/experience);
- The Project (activities, methodology, personnel, equipment);
- Time schedule (maximum 5 years, phases);
- Project budget in USD (total costs, amount requested from IFLA/ALP);
- Support from authorities/organizations (Has the proposal already been submitted to other organizations for support? With what results?);
- Proposals for reporting, monitoring, evaluation;
- Continuity (How will continuity be assured? What happens when the project is completed? Which local authorities or organizations will assume responsibility?);
- Will the results of the project be published?;
- Who will actually work with the project? Qualifications?;

You can use the enclosed Project Submission Form

ANNUAL PROCEDURE AND TIME SCHEDULE FOR PROJECT HANDLING

January:	Deadline for Project Applications to reach the Regional Manager.
February:	Proposals are sent to the Regional Advisory Committee to be appraised
March-April:	Preliminary evaluation, applicants are informed
May-July:	Preparation for the annual meeting of the ALP Advisory Committee at the IFLA Annual Conference.
August:	Meeting of the ALP Advisory Committee to give final advice.

IFLA's Professional Board and the applicants are then informed about the results.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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