

## IFLA WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS 78TH IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY

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Finnish capital Helsinki hosted 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, held in the period 11-17. August. The main theme was: „Libraries Now! - Inspiring, Surprising, Empowering“. Congress venue was placed opposite to Helsinki City Library main building in part of town called Passila, some 20 minutes away by tram from the city center. It is easy to go from Congress center to library because there is a pedestrian passage. This was unique opportunity to witness Finnish public librarianship at work, apart from the congress presentation. Naturally, all of the other Finnish libraries were at disposal to congress participants including new Helsinki University Library main building, although its grand opening for the public was scheduled for September.

Congress was divided into five tracks: Open access and digital resources; Policy, strategy and advocacy; Users-driven access and services; Tools and techniques and Ideas, innovations, anticipating the new. Every track had multiple sessions during each day of congress.

Librarians's expedition from Serbia counted eleven members: Dejan Ristić, acting director of National Library of Serbia, Ivana Nikolić, Head of selective acquisition department in NLS, PhD Tatjana Subotin Golubović, Head of archeography department in NLS, Tanja Tasić, cataloging librarian in Monograph's department in NLS, Jasmina Ninkov, Belgrade City Library director and Serbian Library Association president, Mirko Marković, BCL director's ad-

viser for programs and projects, Predrag Đukić, BCL assistant director, Vesna Crnković, director of Public library „Radisav Nikčević“ Jagodina, Nebojša Vasić, director of Public library „Stevan Sremac“ Niš, Beba Stanković, director of Public library „Ilija M. Petrović“ Požarevac and Vesna Crnogorac, Serbian Library Association secretary.

In past decade Serbian libraries have regularly participated as Poster session exhibitors, which always attracts great attention. This year, Serbian presenters were: Belgrade City Library and the American Embassy in Belgrade with poster „Untold stories“; Jasmina Ninkov and Vesna Crnogorac with Serbian Library Association poster „Public libraries as a force for transparency“ and Beba Stanković who presented project „Let’s understand each other“.

Vesna Crnković had very well received exposé „Agricultural rural libraries in Serbia in the era of Information Technology“ under session 205 „Social networking for agricultural research, education, and extension service: an international perspective“.

Congress exhibition is the following part of each IFLA congress presenting up to date state of the art different range of products for libraries. There were database publishers, IT equipment dealers, software developers, library associations and organizations, as well as always attractive library furniture companies. From this year’s offer automatic dust cleaning machine for books could be pointed out.

Finnish hosts did they best to organize congress in the best possible way with punctual time frame and great conditions, as well as free public transportation pass for unlimited use during conference days which made city circulation very easy for all congress participants. Despite weather forecast, weather conditions were extremely pleasant, sunny with temperatures over 20°C which was quite unusual for Scandinavia, even in August. This all was added-value for great Helsinki impressions.