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From the Chair of the ECIS Library and Information Services Committee

The ECIS Library and Information Services Committee is looking for library minded people to recommend as presenters to ECIS for this year's Annual Conference. ECIS guarantees 10 session slots for our part of the programme, but there is often room for more, if we make the proposals.

A number of topics have been suggested at recent conferences; feel free to use these or to make your own proposal. Suggested topics include:

- Forum of elementary librarians — perhaps on the specific topic of library skills
- New books chat (probably taken)
- Sharing successes/librarians' tips
- Organizing author visits (possibly taken)
- Librarians in bilingual schools
- Library sessions relevant to IB
- Discussion/information sharing session on print subscriptions and suppliers, and circulation methods
- Promoting books for boys/teenagers

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in presenting in November.

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Getting — and Staying — in Touch

By John Royce

One of the issues raised during the OBM at ECIS 2001 was the problem of contacting other ECIS school librarians. We often need to contact other librarians, but do not have full details. We may know the person or the school — we may even know both name and school — but we do not know the email address. Sometimes the address we have no longer works because the named person has left and the new librarian has a different address.

There are two ways of getting round this. The first is to persuade your network manager to provide a generic email address library@your.school.name and then to direct incoming mail to you and/or to other member/s of library staff. Please note: variations (such as upperlib@... or librarian@...) will not work. The generic address has to be the same for all. Then it matters not if your correspondent does not know your personal email address: s/he just has to find your school email address in the ECIS directory and put library@ in front.

A second method is to look up ECIS listserv subscribers. Just send an email to listserv@listserv.ecis.org with the subject line blank and a message 'review library'. You will get an email reply listing all current listserv subscribers. This is especially useful when you know the name of your intended correspondent (provided the person is a member of the listserv) but do not know the address.

If you do not want your email address to be publicly available, you can go to the library listserv archive page <http://listserv.ecis.org/archives/library.html> and change your settings to read 'Address concealed from REVIEW listing'. Of course if you want to contact ECIS librarians generally, just send a message to the listserv.

If you have yet to become a listserv subscriber, the process is easy and the cost is free. Either send an email to listserv@listserv.ecis.org with no subject and this as your message: 'subscribe library' or go to <http://listserv.ecis.org/archives/library.html>, choose the "Join the list" option, and complete the form.

A Quick Look Back: ECIS Annual Conference (The Hague) 2001

The Librarians' Forum has become a centrepiece for our programme. We began with panel discussions, one group discussing relationships between IT and library interests, while a second group discussed the Accreditation process. Both were lively discussions.

The Open Business Meeting gave us opportunity to promote the Conference in Budapest next March, and also led to some very useful ideas for next year's Annual Conference. As always, it is good to hear what librarians want from their conferences, but we do need people to put those ideas into action. Presentation proposals are always welcome — and are appreciated: we want to hear what YOU are doing in your school, what works, what interests you have that you can share. (Contact: John Royce)

The Follett Lunch followed, a much appreciated staple part of our program, followed by the first of three presentations by Professor Kim Reynolds. In the first, she gave us an update on research into the contributions and effectiveness of the BookStart programme in Britain. Her second session dealt with re-telling and adaptations of established classics, and included a detailed analysis of the unexpected success of a modern version of *Pilgrim's Progress*. Her last session gave us some interesting and provocative insights into the nature of stereotyping, and the possible use of stereotyping in literature as an agent of social change.



Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel

Frances Hall and Jeffrey Brewster are proving regular and popular attractions at these conferences. This time they teamed up to lead a sharing of new books for pre-K to 6 children. Participants had come primed and prepared to share, a much appreciated session. Anthony Tilke presented an account of reader development, described a number of programmes and strategies for promoting reading for pleasure, including World Book Day and 'shadowing' schemes for the UK Library Association's Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards.

John Royce discussed plagiarism, giving a quick overview of cheat sites and paper mills, and then discussing his research into plagiarism detection services. With plagiarism, everything is suspect: mediocrity is no guarantee that a piece of work is a student's own, while matches found by detection services may not prove guilt, and absence of matches is not necessarily proof of innocence!

The SIRS Gala Dinner was again very successful, and the Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel is always a popular venue. This year we witnessed a first in the history of the SIRS Dinners: in an Oscar-style announcement we were able to announce this year's SIRS ECIS Information Exchange Award winner during the evening, and Deborah Babel of the Anglo American School of Moscow was present to accept Eleanor and Elliot Goldstein's congratulations on her achievement. Deborah will spend a fortnight in Florida at SIRS expense, taking part in professional activities including visits to SIRS and to schools and other institutions in the area.

A Look Forward: Reading Between the Lines

It's not too late to book your place for the third ECIS Librarians' Special Event: the **Reading Between the Lines Conference and Workshop**, being held at the American International School of Budapest in March.

Our keynote speaker is Joyce Valenza, whom many will know for her lively and thoughtful articles in *Book Report*, *Technology Connection*, *Classroom Connect*, *Multimedia Schools* and elsewhere. As well as her keynote address, Joyce will lead a workshop on designing library web pages, very appropriate since her library won the 2001 IASL/Concord School Library Web Page of the Year Award. You can find out more about Joyce at <http://mciunix.mci.k12.pa.us/~spjvweb/jvweb.html>.

We have a number of other main presenters, including Anne

Creany, Sue Healey, and Carolyn Markuson. Two authors are featured on the bill: Vargie Johnson and Richard Tulloch. And there is a host of shop-floor buildings-level librarians ready to share, lead, relate and demonstrate. There are sessions on books and reading, on technology and related issues, on plagiarism, on IB librarianship, on library management, on working with teachers, on literacy and information literacy skills, on much, much more.

In amongst the hard work, our conferences are also great fun. A number of events are already lined up, including Hungarian wine tasting, the SIRS Gala Dinner, a silent book auction in aid of Book Aid International and the wonderful city of Budapest.

Register whilst places are still available. Full details and registration forms are available at: <http://vm.robcol.k12.tr/~jroyce/ecisbuda/ecisbuda.html> or contact Coralie Clark email: clark.c@nk.aisb.hu, fax: +36 26 556 003.

Listserv Survey Results

The ECIS Library listserv carried an interesting enquiry recently concerning whether students should carry/drink bottled water in the library. This grew out of a discussion at one school as to whether the ages-old “no food or drink in the library” rule applied to students coming in with bottled water.

School librarians were invited to send responses to the enquirer. It appears to be “a complicated issue — and one where there is little or no consensus in our professional community, at least as reflected in the results we got. Of the 24 schools, 12 allow water, 12 don’t!” The enquirer decided “that, for us, water IS a drink, and, hence, covered by the existing rule ‘no drinking in the library’. There are schools that don’t allow students to bring bookbags and briefcases into the library, but we’re not one of those, so students may, of course, carry bottled water with them. We only ask that they step outside of the library to drink it. Bottles should be placed “in your bag, in your pocket, in the garbage . . . or out in the hall.”

Thanks to Rick Barter, Director, The Mellon Library, American School in London, UK.

The SIRS/ECIS Information Exchange Award

John Royce writes: Eleanor and Elliot Goldstein have announced that the award will again be made next year. The format is to change from what we have become used to. One option being considered is to require that short-listed finalists attend the November Conference, and be available to interview with the selection team. Finalists will also be expected to attend the SIRS Gala Dinner where the announcement of the winner will be a complete surprise to all—including the winner!

Once finalised, details will be posted in the ECIS library newsletter, on the listserv and in *The Link*. SIRS will also be publishing information in their regular mailings to customers and elsewhere. Every year the judging is very tight and it is difficult to decide on the winner, so previous applicants are urged to try again.

Cheers . . .

Librarians should though raise a glass (of water, or something stronger) to author Philip Pullman for winning the UK Whitbread Award. Mr Pullman won with *The Amber Spyglass*, the first time a children’s book had won the overall prize.

Information of Interest

The International Association of School Librarianship conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August 2002.
Information: <http://www.iasl-slo.org>

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
Congress: IFLA 2002 Glasgow August 2002:
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/index.htm>

IFLA Statement on Terrorism:
<http://www.ifla.org/V/press/terrorism.htm>

United Nations bi-weekly list of new titles at:
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/whatsnew/newtitle.htm>

Updated website for the Australasian International Baccalaureate Librarians to be found at:
<http://www.ibaccalte.schools.net.au/>

OECD (Education) Report (2001):
<http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-document-4-nodirectorate-no-12-22675-4,FF.html>

Information skills: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bigblue/> This site will be completed in April 2002 and will include case studies. Also <http://www.teachit.co.uk/teachit/ks4lib/ks4libry.htm>, then look at the reading skills section.

Book Awards website for USA and Canada: <http://www.schoolratings.com/youngadultspg1.htm>

The impact of the school library resource centre on learning: new research from Scotland: <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/~sim/research/SLRCreport.pdf>.

Publications

Varley, Ann; Arscott, David. *Good essays: how to plan them and to write them*
Pomegranate Press, Hassocks, Sussex, UK [2000]
0953349314 (30 pp.)

Cottrell, Stella. *The study skills handbook*. Palgrave, 1999.
(palgrave.study.guides.series) 0333751892

Book Awards

2002 Caldecott Medal: Wiesner, David *The three pigs*
Clarion Books 2001 0618007016

2002 Newbery Medal: Par, Linda Sue *A single shard*
Clarion Books 2001 0395978270

Ten Days in Boston, Summer 2001

“Would you be interested in representing the UK Library Association at IFLA?” asked the voice down the phone. Working freelance, I find the motto ‘if in doubt, say you’ll do it’ is a good one, so I found myself saying “Yes” immediately.

Like you, maybe, I was aware there was something called IFLA, but little more than that; after working in UK libraries (mainly school library services) for over 30 years, I’d quoted its school library manifesto and standards occasionally, but the schools I dealt with felt they had more pressing concerns.

So it was an opportunity to close my knowledge gap — starting with the first conference in Boston, in August 2001. It proved to be much more than that. It taught me a lot about how much libraries are valued in other countries, made me many new friends, provided me with information about school libraries round the world and gave me a chance to contribute some of my own experience. And I’ve three more years in which to do that with conferences in Glasgow (2002), Berlin (2003) and Buenos Aires (2004).



Boston street scene

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is an international non-governmental association that has links with UNESCO. It aims to promote international understanding, co-operation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity, and to represent libraries

internationally. It has over 1,500 member organisations from 140 countries, and from the crush in Boston you’d have thought the whole membership was there as 5,573 people converged on the conference centre. IFLA has a large number of special interest groups, and I’d been asked to join the Reading Section, which has a wide brief, from reader development activities in the West to basic literacy programmes in less-developed countries. As well as attending my own section’s events, I was able to drop into many other talks. The school libraries section, for example, included a US speaker on information literacy, two speakers from Zimbabwe on their school libraries, and Gayner Eyre, now in Australia, on ‘How works of imagination prepare children for the information society’.

All this — plus a programme of receptions and treats like whale-watching — made it a busy but exhilarating 10 days. The Glasgow conference (which will include a ‘model children’s library’) begins on 18th August this year; if you get chance, do try to be there! — *Story and photos by Alec Williams*

Alec Williams is a freelance consultant, trainer and speaker on books and libraries for children and in schools and is a member of the UK School Library Association’s Executive Committee. Alex also works with school children, through storytelling and performance poetry. (alecw@lineone.net)

The Link is the newsletter of the ECIS Library and Information Services Committee and is edited by Anthony Tilke, Yokohama International School, Japan. Email: tilkea@yis.ac.jp; fax 81-45-621-0379.

Late News:

“The IBAEM committee is sorry to announce that due to unforeseen reasons the IB Librarians Workshop to be held in Amman in April will be postponed to next year around the same time. For further information please contact the IB office in Geneva. We hope to see you next year in Amman.”



Hynes Convention Center