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Serials & E-Resources News

Report on IFLA Conference

Smita Joshipura, Electronic Resources Management
Coordinator, Arizona State University Libraries

This year's International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference was my second one, and my maiden year as a standing committee member of Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section (SOCRS). [IFLA](#) is the leading international organization, and a global voice for library and information profession. It held its 77th World Library and Information Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico from August 14-18 2011, and was attended by approximately 2500 delegates from all over the world. I attended various programs in the areas of serials and continuing resources, acquisitions, collection development, management, marketing, and technology. These presentations were truly diverse in nature, and enhanced my knowledge about the status of various libraries all around the globe.

Here, I would like to share the program sponsored by SOCRS with a theme, "Access and innovation: delivering information to all". There were four fascinating presentations in this area, which helped me to broaden my knowledge about open access and digital resources.

The paper on "Research4Life: bringing academic and professional peer-reviewed content to developing countries through public-private partnerships" provided an overview on [Research4Life](#) program, which is the collective name for three research programs [HINARI](#) (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative),

[AGORA](#) (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture, and [OARE](#) (Online Access to Research in the Environment). It provides free or low cost online access to scientific and peer-reviewed content in the areas of health, agriculture, and environment to developing countries. This paper includes results of the Research4Life User Experience Review conducted in detail, and provides an extensive picture of users, their activities, and how this program supports these activities as well as challenges they are facing.

Another paper entitled "[OpenEdition Freemium: developing a sustainable library-centered economic model for open access](#)" discussed a new portal called [OpenEdition](#) launched in February 2011 by the Centre for Open Electronic Publishing (Cleo, France). It brings together three open access platforms: [Revues.org](#), [Calenda](#), and [Hypotheses.org](#), focusing mainly on humanities and social sciences. It has developed an innovative economic model for open access through a [Freemium](#) program for libraries and their users, and would provide an opportunity for libraries to be involved in the development of a global open access system.

In the third paper captioned, "Unbundling the big deal with Patron Driven Acquisition of e-Journals" librarians from St. John's University Libraries, US, shared their experience in implementing patron driven acquisition (PDA) for e-journals, an alternative model to a publisher's big deal program. The paper provided an interesting case study with usage statistics, and showed a way to control such expensive deals while at the same

time providing easy and timely access of articles to users.

The last paper, titled as "[Widening access to serials in the developing world: the role and philosophy of INASP](#)" discussed a philanthropic organization, The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications ([INASP](#)), and its role in support of scholarly research and communication for the developing countries, as well as its role helping libraries and librarians develop the skills and knowledge to provide services in the digital library environment. This paper highlights INASP's most comprehensive initiative known as Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information ([PERii](#)) through which worldwide research is accessible to users.

In a nutshell, attending the IFLA conference and serving on the standing committee were great learning experiences. The highlight of the conference was its social and cultural evening, which provided delegates an opportunity to embrace Puerto Rican culture, taste, and dance. IFLA is the most important professional international event within the library and information community. It brings together delegates, experts, and suppliers from all over the world. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, share experiences, introduce new technologies, and influence the development of libraries and information centers, both nationally and globally.