

INTEREST GROUP FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC STANDARDS (IGBIS) BREAKFAST MEETING

Minutes of the first IGBIS member meeting held on 12 May 2003 at 09h00 at the UNISA Sunnyside Campus in Pretoria.

Attendance

Despite the chilly weather, 56 people attended the breakfast meeting - a well represented group of people with colleagues from a variety of institutions - CSIR, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Water Affairs & Forestry, Gauteng Provincial Library Services, City of Johannesburg Library and Tshwane City Library, Medunsa, Technikon North West, Technikon Pretoria, UNISA, University of Pretoria and Wits, National Library of South Africa, LIASA and Sabinet Online.

Half of the attendees were LIASA members and half non-LIASA members, the latter will provide good scope for growing the IGBIS membership

Minutes

A bigger venue had to be arranged at the last minute due to the good response for this meeting. The original between 20-50 people that was hoped for, grew to sixty-three bookings. Registration took place between 08h30 and 09h00 in the cafeteria and everybody was seated and ready for breakfast shortly after 09h00.

Tienie de Klerk (IGBIS convener) extended a warm welcome to all and gave a short introductory speech about IGBIS activities, plans and goals. Thereafter she introduced the guests of honour - Gwenda Thomas (LIASA Executive Director) and Ina van der Merwe (UNISA Library).

Gwenda delivered an inspiring talk on the importance of LIASA to the library community of South Africa and the role IGBIS will play in the future strategic vision of LIASA.

After a hearty breakfast at which attendees were able to exchange ideas and share experiences, all departed to the lecture venue to attend a presentation by Ina van der Merwe.

Ina van der Merwe's presentation "Exactly how endangered have we become ...? : views on the status of cataloguers" focused on the dwindling cataloguing skills - nationally and internationally - a cause for concern as fewer and fewer staff are attracted to this aspect of librarianship with the majority of staff in one study over 50 years of age.

Thereafter she provided feedback on the proceedings of the ALCTS - AACR2 2002 & Metadata Institute, held 21-22 February 2003 in Orlando, Florida focusing on the FRBR (Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records) Conceptual Model. In future, the

terminology in AACR2 will be aligned with that of the FRBR model to provide a common language. She further discussed the Dublin Core Standard – the data elements with a comparison between AACR2 and the Dublin Core as well as the benefits of the Dublin Core.

Major changes in AACR2 were touched upon with the emphasis on Chapter 12 – Continuing Resources). Both the talks by Tienie and Gwenda, as well as Ina's presentation will be available on LIASA's website at: <http://www.liasa.org.za>

To conclude the meeting, a competition was held in which two attendees won prizes – one of the prizes being free LIASA-IGBIS membership for a year (Santie Engelbrecht, National Library of SA), and a sponsored gift voucher from Incredible Books – Lynnridge Mall, Pretoria (Madely du Preez, Dept. of Information Science, Unisa). The question was: What does the acronym FRBR stand for, and what is the importance of its relationship to AACR2? In between, pictures of the event were taken.

Closure

The meeting was closed at 12h00.

IGBIS

App. A

First Member Meeting, 12/05/03

Welcome message – IGBIS Convener

Good morning, colleagues

A warm & hearty welcome to all present here at our first IGBIS member meeting. A special word of welcome to our guest speakers – Gwenda Thomas, who will say a few words on LIASA membership, and Ina v d Merwe, who will say many more words on the present day cataloguer and changing cataloguing activities. Of course, without you deciding to attend, this meeting would not have been possible.

We are between 60 and 70 people gathered here this morning. We are LIASA members and non-members. Most are Pretorians, but we also have visitors from Jhb and the Northwest in our midst. Teachers and practitioners – cataloguers, bibliographers, indexers - are represented, as well as training institutions – UP & UNISA - and various library types: libraries at research institutes, tertiary institutions, community and public libraries, government libraries, National Library, SABINET Online – indeed a good mixture. People from different walks of life are gathered around one specific topic: bibliographic standards.

We are a specific group of professional people, sharing similar goals and interests. Within our working environment, we employ common practices, work with the same tools and express ourselves in a common language. We have similar beliefs and value systems. We embody a specific store of knowledge, and have a need to know what each other know. We are a learning group, collaborating with each other, using one another as a sounding board, teaching each other. We are a community of learners, exchanging ideas, sharing & benefiting from each others expertise. But, we are also a community that learns, colleagues committed to jointly develop better practices.

I have just mentioned a few characteristics of a “community of practice”. Although the phrase might sound new to you, the phenomenon / concept is definitely not. It is an age-old structure, as human beings have formed communities that accumulate collective learning into social practices, since the beginning of history – a good example is the guilds of the Middle Ages that took on the stewardship of a trade. Today, communities of practice are important building blocks in the knowledge society, rapidly expanding in our knowledge-based / knowledge-driven economy.

CoP are loose, informal structures. They do not have a fixed size – their members could be anything between four and 400. They are not business/ functional units, nor teams or networks, and emerge out of their own accord. Hierarchy and members’ status are inapplicable, and members can belong to more than one CoP simultaneously. CoP have

no boundaries and they could be active within a business unit, across units and even across company / organisation boundaries. Most of all, CoP are made up of people who are fully engaged in the process of creating, refining, communication and using knowledge.

Organisations view people as an important resource, therefore CoP are important to the functioning of the organisation, especially to those organisations that recognise knowledge as a key asset. It is specifically within CoP – the centre of knowledge activities – where knowledge is created, shared, organised, revised and passed on and in a sense, knowledge is owned by these communities. Being actively involved in a CoP, we can support the roles they can play in organisations, regarding: exchange and interpretation of information: CoP is an ideal channel for moving information, because the members have a shared understanding of the matter and know what is relevant to communicate retaining knowledge in living ways, unlike a database or manual: CoP preserve tacit knowledge that formal systems cannot capture, and for this reason they are ideal for initiating newcomers, when members act as mentors in the organisation stewarding competencies to keep organisations at the cutting edge, because members of the Community discuss new ideas, work together on problems and come up with developments inside and outside of their organisations.

Through its system of Interest Groups, LIASA has created opportunities for CoP. My vision for IGBIS is to become a CoP, where members will become knowledgeable about bibliographic standards, going back to the various organisations and practice this knowledgeableability, and in such a way contributing to the survival of our profession, rather than its extinction. May you all enjoy a delightful morning!