LIBRARIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CARING FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

SPEAKER’S BIOGRAPHIES AND ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

Facebook: @EUROLIS
www.eurolis.wordpress.com
BIOGRAPHY

Martyn Wade was National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland from 2002 – 2014, during which time the Library was transformed into a major cultural and heritage venue. Martyn has been a professional librarian for almost forty years, focusing on breaking down barriers to the use of library, information and archive services in order to widen the use of their collections. He is also interested in the value of historic library collections, as well as intellectual freedom and freedom of expression.

Martyn is Chair of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – the UK professional body for library and information workers. He is a Trustee of a number of library and cultural bodies and contributes to the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions where he is Chair of the Committee for Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and became an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to Culture in Scotland in 2014.

ABSTRACT

Librarians, Libraries, and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Right

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

This is a core ethical concern of professional librarians, and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ FAIFE Committee supports and advises on its work in this area. This paper highlights FAIFE’s recent work on issues such as internet access and net neutrality and describes the development of the FAIFE network which will enable activists across the world promote and support the role of librarians and libraries in the right of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression.
DIANA PUYO FROM FRANCE

BIOGRAPHY

Diana has been leading Libraries Without Borders‘ operations since 2014, driving the program and project implementation teams and the global coordination of LWB’s operational strategies regarding the deployment of Ideas Box: a comprehensive portable media centre, with an in-built power source, powerful, standardized, customizable and easy to use. The Ideas Box is a major innovation for improving access to information and culture for all, even in crisis situations. With previous experience in profit, non-profit and international organisations Diana strives to identify cross cutting and creative approaches with her teams to implement innovative operations addressing educational challenges globally.

ABSTRACT

Libraries Without Borders has been implementing projects in partnership in areas affected by humanitarian crisis as well as territories with high influx of refugee and migrant populations. In both, we promote innovative solutions to enhance access to relevant and reliable information, cultural and pedagogical resources that can support these populations in their integration processes, as well as resilience, psychosocial support and other activities in views of contributing to human dignity and development. We are currently operating in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraki Kurdistan, Greece, Germany and France, where we believe that libraries are key stakeholders that can play an important role in promoting these populations‘ rights as well as contributing to their life strategies.
BIOGRAPHY

Britta Schmedemann specialises in library services for adults at Bremen Public Library. She holds a degree in Library and Information Management from Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and has headed the largest branch library of Bremen Public Library before assuming her current position. She is a member of the commission on intercultural library work at German Library Association.

ABSTRACT

Bremen Public Library – culture on the move
Welcoming culture in Germany - Library services for immigrants and refugees

Public libraries reflect the societies in which they exist: if society changes, its libraries are directly affected too. The growing number of migrants and refugees poses new challenges to society and places new demands on its libraries. Where do the people come from? What experiences of libraries do they already have? What can libraries contribute to the welcome culture and integration? Since September 2014 the city library of Bremen has worked together with all the temporary accommodation services in Bremen, as well as with residential services for unaccompanied children, classes which offer access to schools, as well as integration and German language courses. On the basis of this cooperation and experience, Britta Schmedemann brings with her various concepts arising from the welcome culture. This doesn’t mean doing everything in a new or different way – often it’s a question of looking at things from a different perspective and making adjustments. The existing competences and resources provide a good basis – both in big city libraries and in small community libraries!
HELENA TOPA VALENTIM FROM PORTUGAL

BIOGRAPHY

Helena Topa Valentim is a lecturer in the Linguistics Department at the Faculty of the Social and Human Sciences of the New University of Lisbon and researcher in the University Linguistics Centre (CLUNL). As an investigator, her work is centered in the Semantics field, in work groups of projects in Grammar and Text and in Language teaching.

ABSTRACT

Languages and books in the quest for the human rights

It is consensual that the way language works reflects the human rationality. The main issue lies on the kind of rationality molded in this relation and to which we are in need of an answer never definitively reached.

With this presentation, it is my purpose to account for the way the deep knowledge of the language symbolic cognitive ability can become a quest for the human. This path can take us further into the discovery of some of the fundamentals of the human rights. To discuss how language works, we will have to highlight the prime language’s manifestation: the language not only in its multiplicity and variety but also in the deformability of the forms and of the values that we built.

Finally, I intend to infer that the contact of children with written texts and books may, therefore, be an adventure that will enable an experience simultaneously cognitive and ethical, by allowing a journey into the kaleidoscopic potentialities of the language activity.
Paz Fernández is Library Director at the Fundación Juan March (Madrid), a non-profit cultural organization, since 2008. Her academic education includes a BSc in History and a MSc in Library & Information Sciences. She has over 30 years of work experience in libraries such as the Islamic Library at the Spanish Agency for International Development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the Documentation Service of the Spanish Centre of International Relations. In addition to this, Paz has coordinated the work for the Spanish Code of Ethics for Librarians and Information Professionals (2013) and has taught Management Documentation Systems at University Carlos III of Madrid. Paz is author of several academic publications and attends conferences regularly.

ABSTRACT

The right to privacy vs the right to access information: a real-life case of the right to be forgotten

According to a sentence of the European Court of Justice, providers of digital resources should address requests to the Right to be forgotten those who feel harmed by the appearance of his name related with news occurred in the past on search engines. This paper reviews the implications of the sentence for researchers and for information professionals, presents answers given by professional organizations, and shows the difficulty of balancing obedience to legislator and professional ethics through of cases drawn from the newspaper archive on Spanish transition to democracy.
BIOGRAPHY

President of Information New Wave, IFLA Governing Board Member, ALA Executive Board Member. Garcia-Febo is an international librarian and consultant, researcher, speaker and writer of topics such as human rights, access to information, advocacy, diverse populations, new professionals and continuing professional development. She is President of Information New Wave, an international charity seeking to enhance the education of minority groups in the USA and in developing countries. She is an expert strategizing services for diverse and multi-ethnic groups. Garcia-Febo is Principal at LGF International Strategies where she help organizations, libraries and professional associations to carry out global research, strategize international relations, access to information, services to diverse populations and communities. Additionally, she is an expert coordinating educational events, leadership programs and developing curricula for the mentioned subject areas.

ABSTRACT

Diversity and Ethics: to foster dialog about inclusion and ethics in libraries

The idea of human rights, particularly as expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), requires us all to recognise and acknowledge the humanity of others and to respect their rights. In particular, Article 19 sets out rights of freedom of opinion, expression and access to information for all human beings.
(IFLA Code of Ethics)

Librarians across the world face ethical dilemmas daily– “What would you do in that situation?” Fostering dialog about inclusion and ethics in libraries recognizes the roles of libraries in serving our diverse communities including varied issues. This paper features an overview of resources such as the IFLA Code of Ethics and case studies to enter into dialogue to promote ethical thinking towards our colleagues and communities.
BIOGRAPHY

Marino Sinibaldi is a prolific author and since the 1980s has been a writer and presenter of important and celebrated radio and television programmes for RAI (the major Italian National Broadcasting Network and the Italian equivalent of the BBC). He has experienced, witnessed personally, related and broadcast some of the most important cultural events in Italy over the last thirty years. In 2009 he was appointed Director General of RAI 3, the most important cultural channel of the National Italian Television Network.

He has published numerous essays on literary criticism with some of Italy’s foremost publishers Einaudi, Bompiani, Baldini & Castoldi, and on the history of culture and mass communications with Feltrinelli, Zanichelli and for the prestigious Enciclopedia Treccani.

As a journalist he is co-founder of the journal Linea d’Ombra, and he contributes to numerous newspapers and magazines.

His interest and passion for books and the library world dates back to the seventies, when he started working as a librarian. He has a long-lasting experience in this profession having worked for several libraries in Rome including the Biblioteca di Storia Moderna e Contemporanea (Modern and Contemporary History Library).

ABSTRACT

Books and Freedom

The censorship of books in Italy has had a long and chequered history for a variety of different reasons and has involved numerous important and celebrated Italian personages over the centuries. Not even the advent and birth of democracy, which has clearly liberated and freed up of all forms of the circulation of ideas, has been entirely successful in bringing this about: the low numbers of readers in Italy (not more than 41% of the population) is proof enough of this. However, will new technologies succeed in achieving this where up until now, the Italian educational system, media and the publishing industry have all, at least partially, failed.