

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ILIG INFORMALS AND MEETINGS

You are warmly invited to the next ILIG Informal

Date: Wednesday 10 April 2013

Time: 18:00 to 19:45

Place: CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE

We will be joined by

Dr. Janet Murray,

Director of Murray Consulting & Training Pty. Ltd. who is based in Australia. She will be speaking about her experience of developing libraries in the more remote areas of the globe including **Vietnam and Samoa.**

More details and online booking form in the next monthly e-bulletin.

ILIG Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday 12 June

Time: 1.30pm - 5.00pm

followed by ILIG informal, topic to be announced

Keep up-to-date with ILIG via its web pages at www.cilip.org.uk/ilig



If undelivered, please return to ILIG, c/o CILIP,

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fofacts

on International Library
and Information Work

Volume 44, Number 1, 2013

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For further information, please contact:

Kathleen Ladizesky ladizesky@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial

This first issue of 2013 brings news of the Anthony Thompson Award, which is administered by ILIG on behalf of CILIP, and this year will enable a young professional from South-East Asia to visit and study the library scene in the UK for up to 3 weeks in June/July 2013. The award has already benefited many professionals from countries such as Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Nepal and has proved to have been of real benefit to the individuals and the services they help provide in their native countries.

Continuing the thread of awards, George Roe as the 2012 winner of the Travelling Librarian Award jointly made by the English Speaking Union and CILIP, has provided an interesting account of some US libraries at the time of the presidential election and demonstrates how libraries can be politically engaged yet without bias towards a particular party.

I am delighted to welcome articles from two of the most geographically compact countries in Europe – Luxembourg and Malta, one land-locked the other water-locked as an island. The differences, of course, go far deeper than that on reading and they make interesting comparison. From Zambia in Africa, Nikki Packer has provided a personal account of how library services are combating illiteracy via a well-supported, VSO/Fountain of Hope project and Ian Stringer a brief overview of the superb new public library in Stuttgart, Germany.

There is also news on the National Year of Reading in Australia, a conference in Ontario, Canada and an overview of the activities of the IFLA Section for Children and Young Adults, so read on and let us know your views on anything in the issue via the ILIG twitter group.

John Lake

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Editor: John Lake
E-mail: ilifocus@cilip.org.uk
or johnbruce@hotmail.com

Associate Editor: Alice Tyler
Tel.: +44 (0)116 275 1379
E-mail: a.m.tyler@btinternet.com

Book Review Editor: Jacqueline Barlow
E-mail: jacquelinebarlow@gmail.com

Advertisements to:
Kathleen Ladizesky, Glantrisant, Trisant,
Aberystwyth SY23 4RL. Tel: 01974 282 411
E-mail: ladizesky@hotmail.co.uk

InDesign work by Gillian Harris

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Librarianship in Luxembourg - an Overview

by Jean-Marie Reding*

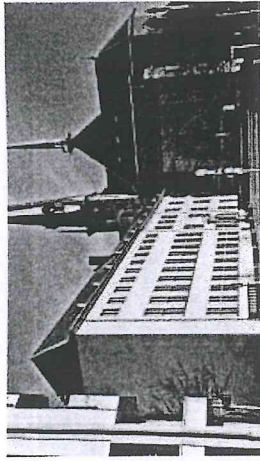
The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, an independent state since 1839, counts 2.586 km² and approximately 512,000 inhabitants (status 01.01.2012). 43% of the total population is non-Luxembourgish. The largest communities are made up of Portuguese, followed by the French, Italians, Belgians and Germans. Every day more than 130,000 border crossers come to work to Luxembourg. The official languages of the Grand Duchy are: the national language, Luxembourgish (Lëtzebuergesch), as well as foreign languages, German and French. This diversity has of course an impact on the production of the books and periodicals, as well as on library collections.

The National Library

The National Library of Luxembourg (NLL) was founded in 1798 as a school library by revolutionary/Napoleonic France which had occupied the city from 1795 to 1814. After being available only to the school community, the "general public" there was admitted from 26 November, 1800. After several different names the library finally was named National Library (Bibliothèque Nationale) by the budget law of 28 March, 1899.

In 1950 the chief librarian of the time, Pierre Frieden, future Minister of State (1958-59) of the Grand Duchy, decided to separate Luxembourgish from non-Luxembourgish documents, which were until then, unsorted. In consequence of this decision the Luxemburgensia-Department was founded. The Luxemburgensia include all works printed

* Jean-Marie Reding, Master in Library and Information Science (Cologne), has been ALBAD-President since March 2003 and FiEB-President since its foundation in 2009.



National Library of Luxembourg

in the Grand Duchy, including those edited by Luxembourgers overseas, as well as those concerning Luxembourg. Today, they constitute about a quarter of the total funds of the NLL.

Legal deposit for printed materials was introduced with the first organic law for the NLL in 1958. By law of 25 June, 2004, with the re-organisation of the cultural institutes, legal deposit was extended to audio-visual (for the National Audio-visual Centre (Centre Nationale de l'Audiovisuel)) and digital media (NLL). All implementing regulations related since 1960 are therefore very demanding for deliverers, given that they are based on regulation of an historical period affected by an authoritarian style.

The first volume of the national bibliography (Bibliographie Nationale), published by the NLL, was published in 1946 (volume 1944/45). The print edition was abandoned in 2005 (last issue: volume 2004). The bibliography of Luxembourgish history (Bibliographie d'Histoire Luxembourgeoise), also published by the NLL, appeared in 1965 (volume 1964) and was published till 2003 (last issue: volume 2002); it continues to appear as offprint in the historical periodical *Hemecht*. Since 1989 (volume 1988) the National Centre of Literature (Centre National de Littérature) publishes

regularly updated: www.albad.lu). The most widespread library type remains that of the specialised library.

Note that according to the law of 6 February, 2009, there is mandatory establishment of school libraries in elementary education. This obligation existed since the law of 10 August, 1912, and in a similar way since the Act of 25 June, 2004, for secondary education. However further details regarding the missions and equipment of these libraries are lacking till this day, leaving considerable freedom to schools on the development of their libraries.

Public Libraries

In 1844 a first parish catholic public library was founded in Luxembourg-City. By circular of 10 January, 1889, the Director-General (Minister at that time) of the Interior prompted the creation of "popular libraries" across the country - which were in fact elementary school libraries, but not limited to the school community. After the law of 10 August, 1912, which forced schools to create "libraries for pupils" and through the donation of "popular libraries" to rather disinterested local authorities, this library form disappeared within a decade from 1918. One popular library in Esch/Alzette, established in 26 March, 1892, developed fine, thanks to the exemplary dedication of its teacher-librarian. It was subsidised and finally adopted by the

Other Scientific Libraries

The University of Luxembourg was founded by the law of 12 August, 2003, which resulted in the merger of the University Centre (Centre Universitaire), three universities of applied sciences (teachers, educators, engineers) and a private school (finance), currently spread over three sites. A new university library, part of a brand new campus, is about to be built in Esch-Belval in the South of the country. According to the law of 25 June, 2004, Article 9, the NLL may exercise university library functions, however, this has never taken place.

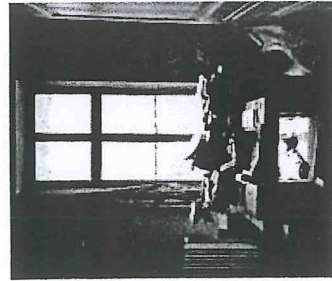
In general, scientific libraries have small collections. Currently only five libraries have more than 100,000 volumes. Five others have collections between 50,000 and 100,000 volumes (see the *Luxembourg Libraries' Guide 2010*,



Existing Catholic parish library in Luxembourg-Limpertsberg

city and became the first real public library of the country on 1 December, 1919. The pre-war period was marked by a very political landscape: libraries of the Catholic Peoples' Society (Katholischer Volksverein - right-wing) competed with those of the Popular Education Association (Volksbildungsverein - social-liberal) and trade unions (left-wing). The Nazi invasion and domination (1940-1944/45) put an end to this promising development. Of these very small public libraries, only two parish libraries (Luxembourg-Limpertsberg and Rumelange) and one single library of the popular education movement (Luxembourg-Bonnevoie) remained in 2012.

In between 1999-2011 seven associative libraries and two local libraries have emerged. The first foundations were local projects, but especially after the announcement of the results of the PISA-2000-study (Programme for International Student Assessment) of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 12 December, 2001, were catastrophic. The country was shocked: Luxembourgish children could not read (i.e. could not analyse / interpret reading material). Parents particularly recognised the loss of small public libraries since the 1980s and decided to react by founding associative public libraries. The model of a public library managed by a



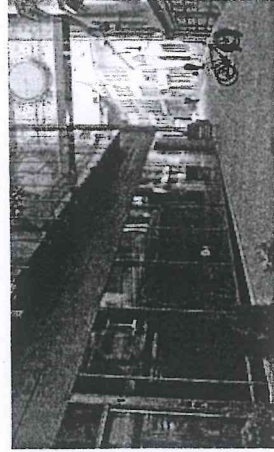
Forgotten catholic parish library of Luxembourg-Eich-Weimerskirch



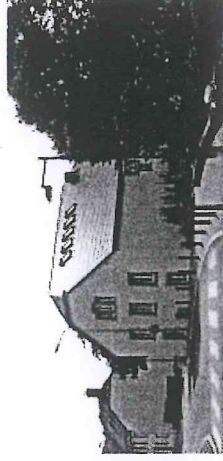
Popular Education Movement Library in Luxembourg-Bonnevoie

non-profit association benefiting from local support through provision of facilities and subsidies now seems to prevail. Currently, the number of public libraries, called neutral, representing balanced collections corresponding to the predominant language situation (at least tri-lingualism), open on a regular basis, amounts to just 13. Only two have more than 50,000 volumes, with at least one qualified librarian (Esch/Alzette and Luxembourg-City). Of the 106 local authorities in the Grand Duchy only 14 have a public library today, serving approximately 43% of the total population (status: 01.01.2012).

In politics, two legislative proposals were introduced in 2003 and 2007 to support these young public libraries. Finally, a law of 24 June, 2010, on public libraries was promulgated, with the by-law (Grand-Ducal regulation) of 7 April, 2010. The Act, developed without professional advice by ministerial bureaucracy, accompanied by regulations of an authoritarian



Luxembourg City Library



Associative Public Library in Troisvierges

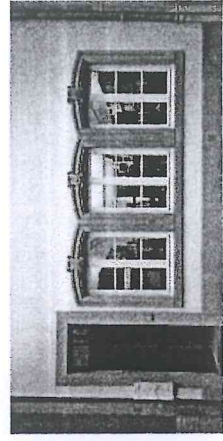
style, is of poor quality. The next years will show us the ropes.

Associations

ALBAD, Association of Luxembourgish Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists (Associatioun vun de Lëtzebuurger Bibliothekären, Archivisten an Dokumentalisten), founded 16 December, 1991, is the only professional representation of the country. With a 100 strong membership, including nearly 90% of librarians, Membership of IFLA (2003) and EBLIDA (2009) and after having focused on the organisation of library days from 1991 till 2002, ALBAD has converted into a lobbying body for libraries since 2003.

With the assistance of ALBAD, the following associations were recently founded:

- the Luxembourgish Association of Public Libraries (Union Luxembourggeoise des Bibliothèques Publiques - ULBP (www.ulbp.lu)), created 31 January, 2007, which works as national interlocutor for public libraries and has a governing board made up largely of politicians.
- the association "For Public Libraries Association" (Fir Eëffentlech Bibliothéiken - FÉB), founded on 24 November, 2009, which has a mission to collect funds for public libraries and is mainly managed by librarians.



Dutch Youth Library in Luxembourg-Pfaffenthal

Network and Standards

In October 1985, the NLL had started the computerisation of its catalogue with Sibil (Système Intégré pour les Bibliothèques de Lausanne), an integrated system for the libraries of Lausanne, Switzerland. This software later enabled the development of the Luxembourgish union catalogue. On 19 April, 2000, Sibil was replaced by Aleph 500 (Ex Libris Ltd). From 1985 to 2003 the name of the catalogue was identical to the one of the software. Since August 2003 it has changed to "bibnet.lu". With the arrival of the union catalogue, standards became indispensable. From 1984 on ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description) rules were seriously implemented. Today, cataloguing corresponds to the rules of AACR2 (Anglo-American Catalogue Rules - 2nd edition), due to the collaboration with the network IDS (Informationsverbund Deutsch-Schweiz) in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. Since 1985 professional indexing is done on the basis of the Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM) of Laval, Quebec, in conjunction with the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). However, the majority of libraries use homemade cataloguing and indexing rules. The lack of qualified staff, with either bachelor or master degrees, greatly affects the quality of the union catalogue *bibnet.lu*. Librarians' education is done abroad, the most popular high schools amongst Luxembourgish students being Cologne, Germany, and Liège, Belgium.