

# ITY greets IFLA

In September 1927, at the Annual Meeting of the UK Library Association held in Edinburgh, Scotland, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, commonly known as IFLA, was founded. Finland was one of the countries that had announced its interest in the forming of what was then called the International Library and Bibliographical Committee. In the founding resolution it was stated that international library conferences should be held at least once in five years ([www.ifla.org/history](http://www.ifla.org/history)). Today, these conferences are held annually. In August 2012, 85 years after the foundation, the 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly is to be held in Helsinki, Finland. By this editorial, exceptionally written in English due to this occasion, the Association for Information Studies, *Informaatiotutkimuksen yhdistys – Föreningen för informationsforskning (ITY ry)*, wants to welcome the conference and the delegates from all over the world to Finland. ITY is considerably young in comparison, founded in 1979, eight years after the establishment of the first professor's chair in Library and Information Science in Finland, at the University of Tampere. ITY welcomes as its members everyone who is interested in Information Studies, as well as in theoretical questions surrounding library and information services, and the development of the field. Many teachers, researchers, and students of Information Studies have joined the association, as have librarians and information specialists. Most of these have their roots in either one of the three Finnish universities offering studies in Information Studies up to the doctoral level, that is the University of Tampere, the University of Oulu, and Åbo Akademi University in Turku, or in one of the Universities of Applied Sciences in Oulu, Seinäjoki, and Turku that gives education in Library and Information Services. ITY invites its members and other interested persons to take part in the annual spring and autumn seminars where current topics are presented and discussed. Biannually the autumn seminar is organized as a bigger event, the Information Studies Days, *I-päivät*. The next *I-päivät* will be organized in November 2012 at Åbo Akademi University. Proposed themes include: Learning in libraries,

and the library as a learning environment; Information related to health and health information behaviour; Information literacies and information behaviour in the context of learning; Document Management; From management to mastering of information; Reading fiction, supporting reading, and seeking of fiction in public libraries; Social media in libraries and; Bibliometrics and scientific communication. The previous *I-päivät*, held at Tampere University in 2010, gathered about 160 attendants representing both researchers within the field and professionals from the library and information field. The association, furthermore, publishes the journal *Informaatiotutkimus-lehti*, the only domestic peer-reviewed journal in Information Studies. The journal was founded in 1981, and is thus into its 31st publication year. The first and most long-lasting editor-in-chief was Marjatta Okko, who edited the journal for 13 years, until 1994. Marjatta Okko was not only the first professor of Library and Information Science in Tampere, but she was also a member of the IFLA Section on Library Theory and Research for a long time. The journal has changed considerably since Okko's time. Four issues a year are, however, still published but since 2008 they are published electronically in an Open Access environment. Marjatta Okko wanted the journal to be scientific and to publish current and high quality articles covering the field. Today, the research field of Information Studies is broader than ever, and the material published in the journal reflects the research areas the field covers in Finland today. The current issue covers visual artists' information behaviour during their work processes; The CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM), a domain ontology for the interchange of rich and heterogeneous cultural heritage information from museums, libraries and archives; development of rules for description and cataloguing in archives; social capital, coping and information behavior of long-term unemployed people, and; immigrant women seeking information about work life. Over the years many more topics have been covered, and all older issues are today digitized and available online, as well. For the international readers, the scientific articles have an abstract in English,

giving an overview of the conducted research also to those who do not know the main languages of the journal, that is, Finnish and Swedish. Welcome to browse the journal online!

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Editor-in-chief