

# Perspectives on working groups

## Art libraries

<http://www.arlisnorden.org/finland/finland.html>  
Finnish Research Libraries' Working Group for Art Libraries was founded 1987. Co-operation between art libraries had already started earlier, and was complemented by Nordic co-operation by the Association for Nordic art libraries: ARLIS/Norden. By then art libraries were small units and mostly managed by one librarian. Due to the structures of the work, support and co-ordination for networking and development work became desirable. Collaboration was also needed for making art libraries more visible – and to support their specific professional identity.

Working Group focuses on current issues and gives peer support e.g. related to the databases and licensing. In addition, the Group has organized training for other libraries about subject specific issues e.g. Arts information resources or copyright issues in art.

Library visits to domestic and foreign libraries and other related organizations. Study tours aim at developing relationships and co-operation with art libraries. However, members of the Group have also other art related interests e.g. for visual arts, design and architecture.

Members of the Working Group represent different sectors of the library field including University libraries, polytechnics, public libraries, museums and other public sector institutions which may have art collections in their premises.

Nordic co-operation as part of the ARLIS/Norden has become as an essential part of the work of the Group. However, the Group has also con-

nections to the other ARLIS-associations and to the art related IFLA sections. In 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2012 the Group will organize an annual conference with ARLIS/Norden as a satellite conference for IFLA. The theme of the conference is “ART Now! Contemporary Art Resources in a Library Context”.

## Information on the writers:

*Eila Rämö, IFLA NC ja IFLA Audiovisual & Multimedia Section, Aalto-university, Arabia campus library  
Email. Eila.ramo@aalto.fi*

*Satu Lindberg, Chair of the art libraries working group, Library of Cultural Politics  
Email. Satu.lindberg@minedu.fi*

## Library assistants

Working Group of Library Assistants was founded in 2007. Members of the Group represent research libraries and special libraries and several other organizations from different areas of Finland.

The Group has about five meetings annually. Outside of the meetings we communicate actively through via an e-mail list and social media. The Group has created both a closed and open Facebook page. <http://www.facebook.com/kirjastosihiteerit>.

The most successful outcome of the Working Group of Library Assistants has been the annual seminar, which has focused on the customer service related issues. In a connection of the meetings, the Group has arranged library visits, to become familiar with the different working environments and a variety of settings of the library assistants' tasks. During the visits the Group also tries to recognize the emerging training needs.

Study tours have extended the perspectives of the Group members. Among the destinations of the study tours have been e.g. The University of Tartu in Estonia (2009), Copenhagen Business School and The Royal Library in Denmark (2010).

The annual seminars organized by the Group have become popular. The topics of the seminars have included e.g. changing library environment, customer services and e-books. Seminars typically aim to widen perspectives on a given topic, as well as to give support to the practices at work.

### Information on the writer:

*Marjut Kangasaho, Library assistant  
University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio campus  
Library, Customer service  
Email. [marjut.kangasaho@uef.fi](mailto:marjut.kangasaho@uef.fi)*

## Olé International!

The International Relations Group is one of the most active working groups of the Finnish Research Library Association. Within the twenty years of its existence, the Group has promoted international cooperation and collaboration. The members of the Group have participated actively in the work of IFLA and have contributed to its committees and sections. Also, within the past ten years or so, the Group has been acknowledged as an efficient organizer of interesting international seminars and symposiums on current and future trendy themes, featured by distinguished international speakers.

The latest seminar "*International dimensions of the library and information profession*", organized by the Group as a foretaste of IFLA 2012 Helsinki, was promoted by the slogan *Olé International!* The theme of the seminar relates to the IFLA International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme: Capacity Building to raise the voice of the profession nationally, regionally and internationally. The keynote speech was given by professor Peter Lor, University of Pretoria, former IFLA Secretary General.

In his lively and interactive talk, Peter Lor addressed themes such as: international comparisons, international influences and "borrowing", library development aid "book aid", digital divide, indigenous librarianship, international organizations, international information relations and international careers. His talk was followed by nine short cases on 'international librarianship in practice', e.g. challenges of working at the Central Library of the EU, the cooperation between Namibian and Finnish libraries, attending the European Union student exchange programmes, how to design an attractive and informative

poster for an international conference audience. For more information, please see <http://www.stks.fi/asiakirjat/koulutustenmateriaalit/materiaalit-kansainvaliset-asiat>

## Information on the authors

*Päivi Pekkarinen, Chair, the International Relations Group, Finnish Research Library Association  
Email: paivi.pekkarinen@helsinki.fi*

*Anja Törmä, Information Specialist,  
Statistics Finland, Information Services  
Statistical Information services  
Email:anja.torma@stat.fi*