

PLA World Library and Information Congress Report

Back in August I travelled to Columbus, Ohio to attend the 2016 IFLA World Library and Information Congress. This was my 3rd congress in the past 4 years and 2nd in my capacity as a member of the Asia Oceania Regional Committee (RSCAO). While not officially representing PLA as a current board member, I still carried PLA's vote card at the General Assembly. On the whole, this was the best of the three congress' I have attended. There was a lot of energy and positivity throughout the week, I think in large part due to the vision outlined by the incoming Secretary-General.

Highlights of the congress for me were:

RSCAO Open Session

Having been involved with the RSCAO program committee it was very exciting to see this session come off successfully. We worked hard to select quality presenters from across our vast region who all delivered on the day. All feedback on the day was positive, even gaining recognition in the [American Libraries Magazine](#). In an unplanned intervention, I delivered our Fijian speaker's presentation after his travel plans were cancelled at the last minut!

National Associations Session

[Session 156, Association Members Meeting - IFLA](#)

Homelessness Session

[Session 147, Guidelines for Library Service to People Experiencing Homelessness: Overview and Examples - Library Services to People with Special Needs](#)

Latin America and Caribbean Session on Copyright

[Session 123, Limitations and exceptions for libraries in the copyright legislation of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries: a call for action - Latin America and the Caribbean \(SI\)](#)

Marketing Section session

[Session 180, What makes a great marketing initiative in library? Presentation of the International IFLA BibLibre Marketing Award - Management and Marketing](#)

This was an excellent session, showcasing the finalists of the section's popular marketing award program. This was a great example of a really dynamic section that has captured widespread interest with this program. A big shout out to Sunshine Coast Libraries for their 'Pop-up' program that earned them 3rd place!

Meeting Celia Donellan (Inaugural PLA eConnect Award Winner) and Jennifer Thompson from Sunshine Coast libraries was a real personal highlight for me. As a driving force behind the PLA eConnect initiative, it was really special to meet the first recipients of an award that PLA has been able to fund from the proceeds of this project. To find out more about PLA eConnect click [here](#) or speak to Roger Henshaw now.

Next year is an election cycle for IFLA. Please consider participating in the global, professional library network. There are a wide range of committees covering all areas of professional interest, all you need to do is commit to 4 years of international travel and conferences! Seriously though, one of IFLA's key strategic initiatives is to increase participation both in the regions and from public libraries, so there has never been a better time.

One other great connection I made was with the [ALA Group](#) looking at services for people living with dementia. This struck a chord given the work we have done in Albany as part of the [Dementia Friendly Communities](#) program with Alzheimer's Australia. They were really interested and impressed by this project so it was really satisfying to be part of such a ground-breaking program.

Best wishes,

Paul Nielsen