

IFLA 2005: A brief report of the event from Philippa Andreasson, Kungl. biblioteket

I was really thrilled to hear I had been lucky enough to be allocated a sponsorship for the 2005 IFLA conference in Oslo. As I work at Kungliga Biblioteket I was allowed to apply to attend IFLA at the membership reduced rate which enabled me to stretch the budget and attend the event from Sunday until Wednesday evening. A couple of my colleagues at BIBSAM were presenting papers at IFLA and, with me being a native English speaker, I had helped proof read their English presentations. This was good preparation for the event and it was reassuring to have a few familiar faces around at the hotel and at the many venues of the event.

IFLA truly is a large scale conference with simultaneous everything! At times it was hard to choose between the many seminars, and having made a decision it was rather too easy to find yourself in the wrong auditorium. But after the first day of such mishaps I did experience a couple of interesting sessions; Acquisition and Collection Development: Electronic Resources – different approaches for end users and Document Delivery and Resource Sharing: Perspectives on supply of electronic documents.

The majority of my time at IFLA was spent meeting with information suppliers such as Thompson, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, SAGE, Emerald, ProQuest, JHUP/Project MUSE and Oxford University Press. So BIBSAM consortium licensing work was done over and above the socialising and networking with librarians from all over the world. As I studied for my library science post graduate in Melbourne, Australia I naturally found it easy to chat with the Australian delegates. Even though I didn't meet any of my former student friends I did make some new contacts in the Australian library world, as well as new acquaintances in Sweden, Norway, Germany and the UK.

Oslo was truly spectacular to visit in mid-August and the evening at Bygdøy, Norway's open air museum was simply fabulous. The later evening was equally rewarding when I managed to get a front row seat to hear Åsne Seierstad speak at the high rise location of Stratos with an incredible view over the summery city.

All in all it was a very stimulating and rewarding event. So I would like to give a big thank you to the Swedish Library Association for facilitating my personal development in the international arena of librarianship.