



## UNESCO Memory of the World Register

**Saleh Zamani** | The 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific [MOWCAP] was held from 29 May to 1 June 2018 in Gwangju City, Republic of Korea. The Asia-Pacific Regional Committee was set up by the UNESCO Director-General in 1998 in order to assist with preservation of and universal access to documentary heritage of the Asia/Pacific region, as well as to support the efforts of the groups and organizations active in the field in the region. This international meeting brought together many participants from 28 countries including: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Bangladesh. The meeting addressed and discussed a host of issues such as review of country reports, future plans, challenges ahead, regional nominations to the World Register, and the international perspective of Memory of the World. The meeting's ses-

sions were moderated by Mr. Li Minghua, MOWCAP Chairperson, Secretary-General Andrew Henderson and Mrs. Misako Ito, Advisor for Communication and Information of the UNESCO Office in Bangkok. The Islamic Republic of Iran was rep-

resented by Dr. Saleh Zamani, International Affairs Advisor of the Head of the Iranian National Committee. In the course of the meeting, he presented a report on the National Committee's procedure during the past two years for the inscription of significant documentary cases on regional and international registers. The MOWCAP National Committee of Iran is a subsidiary (subcommittee) of the Ira-



presented by Dr. Saleh Zamani, International Affairs Advisor of the Head of the Iranian National Committee. In the course of the meeting, he presented a report on

nian National Commission for UNESCO, and is composed of the representatives of all Iranian national heritage centers. It is located at the National Library Building.

## iBulletin at a glance

**Fariborz Khosravi** | *iBulletin* (i: Embedded three acronyms: Information, Iran, International) a bimonthly publication, has been set up to present an updated report on activities and events in Iran related to books, libraries, and librarianship. While mostly focused on recent past activities and events, it also reflects important advancements in the field. Each issue of the Bulletin also includes a special section on addressing specific librarianship and information activities in the country. This is Issue No. 1 of the Bulletin, published both in printed and online/multimedia formats. An experimental Issue No. 0 was previously published in online format only. *iBulletin* welcomes your feedback, ideas, and practical suggestions to help us improve our work. Connect with us!

## What I Talk About When I Talk About iBulletin!

**Fatemeh Pazooki** | In Iran, many activities have been carried out in various areas related to the work of The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), even if not adequately known at the international level. Well, this is what I figured out at the 81<sup>st</sup> IFLA World Library and Information Conference 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. Prior to my presentation of our national report, Mr. Patrice Landry, the head of the Standards Committee, presented a colorful infographic report on the state of the then current activities in the field of library standards in various countries. Color 'gray' in the report denoted countries without available information in the area under review – which to my deep surprise, also included Iran. At the end of my report to the Standard Committee – which we consider as one of the most important and useful subsidiary bodies under IFLA - under the title of "Assessment of the Current Status of Iranian Public Libraries with IFLA Standards" - I presented a number of books, brochures, and manuals which had been published in the field of standardization in Iran. I also added that those publications represented only a small part of the quite wide-ranging activities carried out in Iran in the field; and just too bad that there was no trace of such activities in the infographic report. Can you guess why? Why was the Standard Committee totally unaware of our extensive activities at the national level? The answer is quite simple: because all our outreach activities, in-

clusive of governmental reports and bulletins as well as reports published in the mass media, are mostly – I could even say, practically exclusively - published in Persian, which is not an international language, not even an official UN language! In response to this sad fact – and I presume perhaps partly due to my report from the IFLA Conference and other similar critical reports by other colleagues – the National Library has recently decided to establish the International Relations Committee of the Iranian Library and Information Association. And interestingly enough, I happen to be in charge of the newly-established Committee! Given this background and with the Committee in place – though not yet up and running - we hope to pull our existing capabilities together and to improve the state of international liaison and cooperation between Iran's Library and Information Society (LIS) and its counterparts in other countries, and of course, with IFLA and its bodies. We have been trying in the meantime to gather information on various librarianship activities at the national level, to be translated into English subsequently and finally to be made publicly accessible on the Association Website. This, we believe and hope, will help provide our intended interlocutors at the international level with a relatively good picture of our work and activities – and achievements – in this field. And not to mention the hope that the 'gray' area in future anymore. And this is exactly what I mean by the *iBulletin* we are trying to produce.

## ILISA Assessment result: Grade A

The Iranian Library and Information Science Association (ILISA) has received Grade A in the relevant annual assessment by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT). As reported by Secretary of ILISA Planning and Continuous Improvement Committee (IPCIC), ILISA, with a score of 1080 out of a maximum score of 1500, has received Grade A for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year among around

380 scientific associations in the country. A technical committee in the Ministry evaluates the performance of all scientific associations in the country based on a set of criteria. ILISA's score this year represents the highest level of achievement so far, and its further improvement in the years ahead could accord it a better status, at both national and international levels.

## Let's Go to the 4<sup>th</sup> National Library and Information Science Congress

Iranian Library and Information Congress, held annually by the Iranian Library Society in Tehran since 2015, is an event intended to bring together professors, experts and professionals in the field of library and information science from across the country. The Congress has addressed the following themes and areas thus far:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Congress (2015): Information and Society: Libraries, Archives, and Museums' Services for National Development, November 7-8, 2015;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress (2016): Open Access to Information in the Charter on Citizens' Rights, November 5-6, 2016; and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress (2017): Preservation and Dissemination of Written and Digital Heritage, November 5-6, 2017.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Congress [November 2018: Tehran], with the theme of "Academic Education: Empowering Staff, and Career Dynamics", is scheduled to be held in early November 2018.



## Iran Public Libraries Standards

**Faramarz Masoudi** | Developing standards for Iran's public libraries is among the important programs launched for the first time by the Library and Information Science Association of Iran (ILISA). The Program calls on LISAI to develop appropriate standards for public libraries across the country. Iran Public Libraries Foundation (IPLF) – a public institution financed by the regular governmental budget - is responsible for establishing, renovating, financing, governing, and promoting public libraries at the national level. The Foundation is tasked to finance the entire program, which started in October 2017, and is expected to be completed in 14 months. The program comprises 7 phases, 5 of which have already been completed. In the second phase, all relevant national, regional, and international

major instruments and documents (including UN documents, e.g., SDGs) have been studied in order to extract and formulate the necessary provisions with regard to the mission, functions, and goals of Iran's public libraries. In so far as SDGs are concerned, the main objective is to standardize the processes and services of the country's public libraries – already a work in progress. As part of the Program, relevant stakeholders have been identified and the data for around 11000 public libraries at the national level have been gathered. Moreover, 12 expert meetings at various levels, inclusive of a nation-wide roundtable, have been held to assist the process. The Program, as per the agreement between ILISA and IFLA, enjoys the support and endorsement of the IFLA International Advocacy Program (IAP).

As announced at the 2017 IFLA meeting, the National Library and Archives of Iran will host the “5<sup>th</sup> UNIMARC Users’ Group” and the “1<sup>st</sup> UNIMARC Users’ Group Meeting in the Middle East” in November 2018 at the National Library and Archives of Iran Ms. Saeedeh Akbari Darian, the Iranian PUC Member of

IFLA 2017, made this announcement on behalf of the National Library and Archives of Iran. At the meeting it was also decided that, upon application of relevant procedures, Ms. Akbari’s recent achievements under the title of “Compatibility of FRAD and FRSAD mapping table with UNIMARC” will be published on the IFLA Website.

President Hassan Rouhani recently appointed, for a four-year term, the new Board of Trustees of Iran’s Public Libraries. The new Board includes two female lecturers; Dr. Mehri Parirokh, Professor of Library and Information Science at Ferdowsi University (Mashhad) and Dr. Fatemeh Fahimnia, Professor of Library and Information Science at Tehran University.



The 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of the “Association of Women Historians” entitled “Culture and Civilization of Western Iran” was held in Sanandaj. The core issues addressed by the meeting were as follows:

- The role of women in politics in the western regions of Iran;
- Women in local communities and tribal, rural and urban cultures;
- Woman and anthropological studies;
- Women and historic monuments; and
- Women and religion.

The “Association of Women Historians” was established 18 years ago and has been active in scientific and cultural fields. This Congress was held from 29-30 April 2018 in Sanandaj, Province of Kurdistan.

During the recent official visit of President Hassan Rouhani to Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan Republics, two separate documents on “Cultural Cooperation” were signed. Both documents emphasized the importance of joint cultural programs and activities, to be pursued and coordinated mostly by libraries and information centers. The envisioned programs and activities, within the framework of respective national regulations, include:

- Exchange of information, experiences, books, publications, photographs, slides, films and microfilms in the fields of culture, art, literature, and cultural heritage;
- Exchange of information on book fairs, cultural media and international conferences to be held in the country, and invitation of representatives from other country to attend the events;
- Expression of readiness to exchange printed materials and publications between the two countries;
- Holding joint workshops on the restoration of manuscripts and cultural heritage;
- Emphasis on the imperative of respecting copyright laws in the two countries in the exchange of cultural works.

The exhibition on “Iran at the Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century”, displaying historical documents and images about Iran collected by Lambert Molitor, opened on April 29, 2018 at the National Library and Archives of Iran. The collection covers the documents from the 1902-1928 periods. Mrs. Ashraf Boroujerdi, Director of the National Library and Archives of Iran, said in her opening remarks: “This collection, now unveiled for the public, belongs to a man who had an active and effective role in reviving Iran’s cultures and customs.” Mr. François Delhay, the Belgian Ambassador in Tehran, also said in his brief words

that “the Exhibition illustrates the long history of cooperation between Iran and Belgium.” Mr. Michel Molitor, a grandson of Lambert Molitor, also attending the opening ceremony, expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Iranian people and government in organizing the Exhibition. In his view, the collection presents a good picture of the services Lambert Molitor and his brothers August and Camille made to Iran in those days. He said: “It is happy day today; these documents and images show how much a man loved a country he didn’t belong to. This is the story of his teachings - for you and for us.”

The Second National Conference of Library and Information Science Association of Iran (ILISA), Fars Province Branch, was held from 9-10 May 2018 at the Shiraz National Library and Documentation Center under the title of “Scientific Communication Perspectives.” The Conference also provided teleconference participation outside of the Fars Province.



According to the most recent report of “NEMA: The Global Citation Indices (2017)”, Iran ranks first in the region in two indices: “Web of Science” and “Scopus”. The report also presents an analysis of Iran’s status in the two indices. As recently announced by Dr. Siros Alidousti, director of Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology (IranDoc), the Institute has launched the NEMA System ([nema.irandoc.ac.ir](http://nema.irandoc.ac.ir)), and is engaged in monitoring the performance of various science, technology, and innovation systems of the country and prepare and present the necessary reports for policy-making.



The 31<sup>st</sup> Tehran International Book Fair, an annual international event and one of the most important cultural events in Iran, was held from 1-12 May 2018 in Tehran. The Motto of the Book Fair this year was “No to Not Reading Books.” Famous publishing houses from more than 50 countries, from various regions in the world, attended the 11-day cultural event. Serbia’s Culture and Information Minister, a guest of honor, was among the special guests of the opening ceremony of the Book Fair.



On the occasion of the Slovakian Cultural Week in Tehran, on 22 April 2018, a five-day exhibition featuring Persian manuscripts from Bratislava National Library opened at the Museum of Books and Documentary Heritage of Iran. The Bratislava University Library has purchased the collection of Persian manuscripts from Safvet-beg Bašagić, the late Bosnian collector, listed it in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register, and showcased it in several cities in the world. The original Safvet-beg

Bašagić collection contains around 600 manuscripts, including 393 in Arabic, 88 in Persian, and 114 in Turkish. This precious collection includes manuscripts about Islamic art and literature, including the famous Logic of Farabi, Khamsa of Nizami, and Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. The National Library and Archives of Iran and the National Library of Bratislava University have agreed to hold a similar event on the manuscripts in Slovakia next year.

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On the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of national bodies for public libraries, arrangements were made across the country (in various cities) for a week-long visit to public libraries by students, employees, officials, and general public. Public libraries offered a host of special packages for introducing - and promoting - public library services. In the course of one of the events in a village public library in Kermanshah Province - in Western Iran - a girl and a boy held their wedding ceremony in the library.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed recently in Tehran between Mrs. Ashraf Broujerdi, Director of National Library and Archives of Iran, and the officials from the Czech Republic’s libraries. The MOU was signed during the visit of two Czech officials to the National Library and Archives of Iran. The two sides expressed their willingness and interest in further expansion of cooperation in a wide range of fields and activities.

The first International Conference on Qualitative Evaluation of the Educational System – the 12<sup>th</sup> National meeting – was held from 9-10 May 2018 at Al-Zahra University. In the course of the two-day meeting, Iranian experts and international scholars addressed a range of issues on the Conference agenda, including: Professional competencies of graduates and their employment with emphasis on the consequences of teaching and learning procedures;

The role of higher education in the professional development of teachers in the pre-University education; and Pathology of the system of supervision and evaluation of higher education. A number of workshops were also organized on the sidelines of the Conference, including “use of the results of assessment of teaching in professional development of faculty members” and “how to use Scopus and ISI Citation Data Bases.”

The 15<sup>th</sup> International ISKO Conference, under the title of “Challenges and Opportunities for Knowledge Organization in the Digital Age” will take place from 9-11 July 2018 in Porto, Portugal. The Iranian delegation attending the Conference will present an article entitled “Feasibility of Implementing PRESSOO Model in Organizing Persian Serials”. ISKO is the leading international society in the field of knowledge organization.

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