Iranian LIS Congress : A Historical Review

Mohsen Haji-Zeinolabedini / Organizing scientific forums is an important index of a science community and an essential factor in creation of communications and bonds among the practitioners. This becomes particularly significant when we come to fields of study like librarianship and information science which are communicative in nature. Accordingly, Iranian librarians from long ago have invested massive efforts in holding professional forums and conventions and have tried to use these event to not only create strong relations between the practitioners of the field, but also introduce and promote new concepts and topics of their fields.

In 60s academic education of librarianship found currency in Iran. This was followed by formation of civil and state-run organs which in an unwritten way undertook the mission of science communications. Iran's Association of Librarians, Children's Books Council, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) were among the entities that incorporated holding conventions, meetings and workshops in their routine agenda.

These organs reached the peaks of their activities in 70s before the victory of the Islamic Revolution. they had fully developed within a decade of their foundation. A quest into when the first no-nonsense librarianship conventions were held in Iran the first reported librarianship and information science convention in Iran was held in 1971 under the title of "The Seminar of Librarian Education Issues for Country's Schools and Leaning Institutions (Fatahi, Bagloo, Akhshik, 2014, p.296). One of the most important conventions held in 70s was the "Congress of Associations of Public Libraries of Iran" which took place from 17 to 20 November, 1973 in the Central Library of Parke Shahr in which over 450 librarians and administrative officials from across the country participated to mark "the Week of Books". On aggregate, seven conventions where held in Iran by 1979.

However, Revolution-induced inflammations and turbulence slowed the trend of most scientific and cultural initiatives. Participatory librarianship activities were no exception in this respect and could not return to their desirable course of progress for several post-revolutionary years. As a result of closure of Iran's Association of Librarians, expansion of ideological issues, closure of universities due to Cultural Revolution and a paradigm shift informed by revolutionary policies, cultural and scientific programs were put on second burners. This was aggravated by intellectual divisions among which stalled the development of any serious scientific momentum. However, in 1980, a seminar on "Studying the Issues and Problems of Scientific Documents Centers for Documentation, Current Needs and Necessities" was organized in Tehran.

The 80s in Iran was characterized with Iraq War against Iran and its subsequent financial and intellectual constraints. Furthermore, In that period, the number of librarianship graduates and professionals was very small. After the re-opening of universities, associate and master's courses which had been initiated before the Revolution were again reintroduced. At the end of 80s, the librarianship bachelor course was again restarted. Despite all the difficulties, a number of conventions were organized in this decade, the most notable of which were "Seminar of books and librarianship" (1980), "Technical Archives (past, present, future)" (1986) and "the First Medical Librarianship and Information Science Seminar" (1988).

The 90s marked the growing expansion of librarianship and information science conventions. 21 conventions and events were held in this time period. After the end of war (1980-1988) and the country's struggle for reconstruction, a stronger need was felt for information and scientific resources which prompted a surge in **...**

4ᵗʰ Annual Congress of Information Science Experts: An Overview

Parinaz Babaei / The 4ᵗʰ annual Congress of Information Science Experts (ISE) will be held from 17-18 November 2018 in Tehran at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI). The main theme of the Congress is "University Education Human Empowerment and Professional Dynamism." The Congress, first held in 2015, is a professional gathering intended to promote closer ties between the profession and academia.

The annual gathering aims at complementing academic, scientific, and research events organized by scientific associations, universities and research centers in the country. It also intends to facilitate and promote dialogue and exchange of views among experts, practitioners, academics and researchers.

The administration of the Congress consists of the following:
1. Steering Committee;
2. Policy-making Committee;
3. Scientific Committee;
4. Executive Committee; and
5. Secretariat.

Following a 9-month preparatory process, the Congress takes place in mid-November. The Scientific and Executive Committees are in charge of preparing the necessary reports on the annual event for the Board of Directors of Iran's Association of Librarianship and Information Science, as well as for the subsequent publication of the proceedings of the Congress. The first three events have been held on the following major themes: Information and Society - Services Provided by Libraries, Archives and Museums for Scientific Development (2015); "Free Access to Information and Citizens' Rights" (2016); and "Conservation and Promotion of Written Heritage - Digital Heritage" (2017). The 4ᵗʰ Congress is in fact a sequel to the event in 2017 and tries to explore further the range of issues discussed previously.

ILISA National Awards

Maryam Hassanzadeh / Since the 2ⁿᵈ Congress (2016), ILISA has been awarding a number of prizes in order to recognize and promote the activities of experts in the fields of librarianship and information science, and strengthen the scientific authority of ILISA. The objectives of the awards, type and value of awards, criteria for eligibility, and the processes of evaluation, selection, and presentation have been formulated by the Association. The works submitted by candidates to the Association are sent for peer review to three independent jurors, accompanied with a review form on the scale of 0 to 100.

The works receiving a total of of at least 270 points (out of a total of 300), are considered eligible for competition.

ILISA Awards are given in four categories:
1. **Pouri Solatani Award**: For the best professional work in the field of information sciences;
2. **Abbas Horri Award**: For the best theoretical study in the field of information sciences;
3. **Noorollah Moradi Award**: For the best professional work or tools in the field of archival sciences

The winners of Awards in all categories are as follows:

1- Pouri Solatani Award
2016: Since no candidate received the minimum required score to win the National Award, the Scientific Committee issued a 'commendation' for the following work.
Akbari-Daryan, S; Khosravi, F; Ebrahimi, M and Bagheri, H. "SKOSification of Trilingual Cultural Thesaurus (TCH) of NLAI: A step in line with NLAI's Linked Data strategy."

2017: The book "Standards for Public Library Services to the Blind and the Partially-sighted People", compiled by the Working Group on Standards of Iran Public Libraries Foundation (IPLF)

2- Abbas Horri Award
2016: Since no candidate received the minimum required score to win the National Award, the Scientific Committee issued a 'commendation' for the following works:
Rismanbaf, A. and Fattahi, R, A New Recognition of Epistemology: Essays in Science Information and Epistemology.
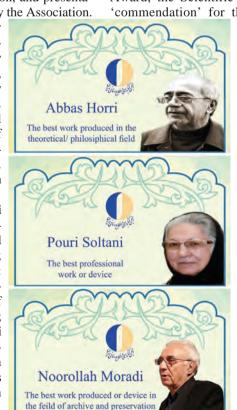Shaghaghi, M. and Vasfi, M.R. (2017). Sociological Definition and Classification of Information Ethics.

2017: Garaei, E., Strategic Futurology in the Education of Information Science and Epistemology in Iran Through the Adoption of Scenario-based Planning Approach. PhD Dissertation (Shahid Chamran University, Ahwaz, 2016)

3-Noorollah Moradi Award
2016 Winner: Torkashvand, F., A Suggested Model for the Preparation of the Glossary of Iran National Archives. M.A. Thesis. (Islamic Azad University, Tehran, 2015)

2017 Winner: Since no candidate received the minimum required score to win the National Award, the Award in the order of 40 million rials was presented ILISA.

Abbas Horri
The best work produced in the theoretical/ philosophical field

Pouri Soltani
The best professional work or device

Noorollah Moradi
The best work produced or device in the feild of archive and preservation

Technical Sessions at the ISE Congress

Fattaneh Torkashvand & Atefeh Alizadeh / Technical sessions [panels] comprise the main, substantive part of the Congress of Information Science Experts, intended for exchange of views among experts and practitioners with a view to exploring practical solutions for the current and emerging difficulties and challenges.

The following list presents the title of the technical sessions [panels] of the annual event during its first three sessions (2015-2017). The abstract of each panel's discussions and the articles presented is available on the *iBulletin*'s Website.

First Congress (2015)

1. Job-related issues of librarians and information science experts -- Theme: Occupational motivation of librarians

2. Problems encountered by students and graduates -- Theme: Creating a balance between quality and quantity in education

3. Review of indigenous experience in the field of standardization and performance assessment -- Theme: Evaluation of the quality of library services and indigenous experiences

4. Issues related to information technology, libraries and science information centers -- Theme: Utilization of technology in libraries

5. University libraries -- Theme: University libraries, management of change and designing of new services

6. Issues related to the organization and accessibility of information in Iran -- Theme: The most pressing issues concerning resource management in Iran

7. Management of public libraries -- Theme: The organizational structure of public libraries in Iran

8. Issues related to scientometrics and ranking of universities -- Theme: Sceintometrics and the ranking system in Iran

9. The librarians and libraries of medical faculties -- Theme: The current status of medical science librarianship in clinical decision-makings and the prospects ahead

10. Information knowledge and empowerment of users as a new function for librarians -- Theme: Empowerment of users; a new function for librarians

Second Congress (2016)

1- The opening session: free access to information -- Theme: From slogans to reality

2- University libraries -- Theme: The role of faculty members in the promotion and excellence of university libraries

3- Problems encountered by students and graduates -- Theme: Emphasis on the problems encountered by graduates

4- Medical libraries and librarians -- Theme: Transparency in the concept of clinical librarianship

5- Knowledge organization -- Theme: Challenges in the equality improvement in information organization

6- Job-related issues of information science experts -- Theme: Occupational issues of librarians: barriers for group activities

7- Museums -- Theme: Problems and issues related to museums in the context of cultural heritage

8- Public libraries -- Theme: Development of library services

9- Technology and innovation -- Theme: A review of content-based businesses in Iran

10- Children's and school libraries -- Theme: The role of librarians in children's and schoollibraries

11- Standards and evaluation -- Theme: Quality management in information services: with the emphasis on electronic environment

12- Literacy in information -- Theme: Promotion of self-empowerment

13- Green information -- Theme: Library as a point of departure for thinking about environment

14- Archives and the related issues -- Theme: Issues related to archives and document centers

15- Publication-related issues -- Theme: Challenges in the publication of specialized journals in information science

Third Congress (2016)

1. The opening session -- Theme: Conservation and promotion of written heritage -digital heritage

2. Management of research in the field of information -- Theme: The law on the prevention and combating fraud in the production of scientific works

3. The National library and the current issues -- Theme: The National Library's policy vis-à-vis written and digital heritages

4. Specialized libraries -- Theme: Redefining the status and role of specialized libraries in organizations

5. Green information -- Theme: librarians as promoters of environment

6. Management of the quality of information services -- Theme: Standards and indexes for the conservation process of digital and written resources

7. Scientometrics -- Theme: The scattered state of reports on sceintometrics in Iran and the need for coordination among relevant centers

8. Issues and problems encountered by students and graduates -- Theme: Emphasis on PhD candidates

9. The Librarianship Association and the related issues -- Theme: A review of the rules of procedure of various branches of the Association

10. Organization of information and knowledge -- Theme: Enhancement of the knowledge and skills of experts in resource organization

11. University libraries -- Theme: The competence of managers and librarians in university libraries

12. Libraries and librarians in medical faculties -- Theme: Challenges, opportunities, and the prospects for the education of medical librarianship

13. Public libraries -- Theme: Public libraries as convention centers

14. Archives and document centers -- Theme: Future archives

15. Children's libraries -- Theme: A child reader - a developed society

16. Publishing and the related issues -- Theme: Review and critique of higher education policies vis-à-vis scientific journals

17. Innovation and emerging technologies -- Theme: data governance in data-centered businesses

18. Literacy in information -- Theme: the supportive role of school libraries in the expansion of information science in the educational system of Iran

19. Profession-related studies --Theme: Old and new jobs in the field of librarianship and outreach

Fourth Congress (2018)

Technical sessions [panels] comprise the main, substantive part of the 4th Congress of Information Science Experts are available at: www.ibulletin.info

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Ideas and Experiences in the ISE Congress

Elahe Hosseini & Najmeh Salemi / "Ideas and Experiences" is one of the most popular segments in ISE Congress. In this segment, interested participants can share their personal 'ideas and experiences' in the field of librarianship and relevant to the thematic topics of the Congress with the Scientific Committee. Once the received 'ideas and experiences' are examined by the Committee, the results are announced in three categories:

1. Those accepted for oral presentation during the Congress,

2. Those not accepted; and

3. Those accepted for submission to further peer review and possible publication in the Congress proceedings.

While the 1st and 2nd Sessions of the Congress did not receive any submissions, a total of 97 ideas were submitted to the 3rd Session (2017); of which 39 were rejected, 10 were accepted without any need for revision, 49 needed some revision for publication. The following 14 cases qualified for the final round and were announced as the selected works of the Congress:

• Digital Audio-visual Formats: Selection Criteria/ Ali Ghadimi and Sepideh Kabiri;

• Protection of Libraries in Times of Crisis: Reports of Experiences Presented at IFLA 2017/ Parisa Pasyar;

• Standardization of Conservation Processes of Digital and Written Resources Based on ISO 9001: The Experience of Husseiniyeh Ershad Public Library/Mehrnaaz Khorasanchi, Faramarz Masoudi, Bahareh Pour Hassan

• Cataloguing in Practice: From Anglo-American Experience in Iran to RDA in Australia /Abolfazl Gardeshi;

• Transition to RDA and Retraining of Cataloguing Librarians in Germany/ Leyli Erfanian;

• Five Years of Identification, Planning and Execution: Digital Protection Program in American ibraries/ Fatemeh Rezaie;

• Explication of the Roles and Functions of Executive and Oversight Bodies in the Implementation of the Law on Publication and Free Access to Information in Iran /Fatemeh Houshi Dorri Farahani, Mohammad Hassan Zadeh;

• Child-centered Libraries: "Read With Me": A New Way Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Book-reading / Zohreh Ghaeini;

• A Half-Century Experience of Reading Books in the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults/ Mina Haddadian;

• Verbal Information Behavior of Pre-School Children Through Information Literacy Training: The Results of Implementation in Three Pre-School Centers/Fatemeh Saleki Maleki;

• The Effectiveness of the Application of Big-6 Model in Teaching Experimental Sciences to 6th -Grade Students in the Improvement of Their Information Literacy Skills (implemented in schools in the City of Ahwaz/ Fatemeh Baaji;

• The Plan Proposed by the Center for Economic Knowledge of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran/ Fatemeh Khoshnood;

• Project-based Learning: An Effective Way in Information Learning – A Case Study of Information Literacy Education in Students' National Contest / Nasatran Pour Salehi, Farahnaz Soltani.

Proceedings of the ISE Congress

Soode SamiePoor / The Proceedings of the Congress of Information Science Experts of Iran, held since 2015, is published within a year after the conclusion of the annual session. The volume, published both in electronic and print formats, is a collection of opening and closing speeches, presented articles, the reports of various technical sessions, as well as reports on side events during the Congress. The table of content of the proceedings for the first

A. Messages: 1. Message from the President of ILISA; 2. Message from Professor Boyd Ryvard to the 1st Congress; and 3. Message from Ms. Barbara B. Tillett to the 1st Congress.

B. Keynote Speakers: 1. Dr. Mohammad Abouei Ardakani: "Creative Management in Information Centers/ 2. Dr. Payam Hanafi Zadeh: "Integrated Conceptualization in the Information Community", and 3. Dr. Hamid Reza Jamali Mehmouei: "Libraries and Modern Users.

three sessions of the Congress is as follows:
1st Congress (6-7 November 2015, Tehran)

The proceedings, compiled by: Ebrahim Afshar Zanjani, Ebrahim Emrani and Faramarz Masoudi, has been published by Iran's Librarianship and Information Science Association (ILISA), Tehran, 2016. 816 pages. ISBN: 978964444362.

The introductory part of the volume contains the names and functions of the members of the Secretariat, Scientific, Executive and Publication Committees of the Congress. The volume also contains the following parts:

C. Consultation Sessions: Reports on each session containing the title of the session, panel members and the abstract of statements.

D. Articles: The report on the presented articles, inclusive of the full text of each article, author(s), and abstract of each article in Persian and English.
2nd Congress (5-6 November 2016, Tehran)

The proceedings, compiled by Reza Rajabali Bagloo, Ebrahim Omrani and Faramarz Masoudi, Mohammad Zerehsaz, and Arezoo Karbaasi, has been published by I L I S A , **...** [continued to Page 3]

Proceedings of the ISE Congress

Tehran, 2017, 537 pages. ISBN: 978964444362.

In addition to an introductory part containing the names and functions of the members of the Secretariat, Scientific, Executive and Publication Committees of the Congress, the volume also contains the following parts:

A. Messages: 1. Message from the Scientific Secretary of the Congress, 2. Message from the Executive Secretary of the Congress, 3. Message from Professor Steve Harnad to the 2nd Congress, and 4. Message from the International Organization of ISKO to the 2nd Congress.

B. Keynote Speakers: 1. Alireza Mokhtarpour (Secretary-General of Iran's Public Libraries' Institution), 2. Abdolreza Kordi (Advisor to the Cultural-Artistic Organization of Tehran's Municipality), and 3. Rahmatollah Fattahi (Professor of Information Science and Epistemology)

C. Consultation Sessions: Reports on each session containing the title of the session, panel members and the abstract of statements.

D. Articles: The report on the presented articles, inclusive of the full text of each article, author(s), and abstract of each article in Persian and English.

3rd Congress (5-6 November 2017, Tehran)

The proceedings of the 3rd Congress, following the same format as in the volume for the first 2 sessions in 2015 and 2016, has been compiled by Reza Rajabali Bagloo, Farzaneh Baharloo and Somayyeh Sadaat Akhsheek. The volume – forthcoming - will be published by Iran's Librarianship and Information Science Association (ILISA).

Side Events of the ISE Congress

Sakineh Ghasempour / In addition to the official activities of the Congress of Information Science Experts, various academic and library-related bodies and student associations in the country also organize such side events as educational workshops, reading contests, book exhibitions, poster display of student activities, and presentation of hand-made cultural products by student associations.

The Iran Librarianship and Information Science Association (ILISA) has played a very active role in organizing events on the sidelines of the previous sessions of the Congress.

ILISA Reading Contest for University Students

ILISA organized a book-reading contest for university students in the 2nd Congress in 2016, which continued in the 3rd Congress (2017) and is expected to be held this year as well. The contest has been held under the motto 'reading, knowledge, ability." The contest intends to promote reading, motivate undergraduate and graduate students in the field of Information Science and Epistemology, and encourage them to participate actively in the Congress programs and ILISA activities. Unlike similar reading contests, no particular book is designated in this contest and the questions are drawn from the book read and introduced by each participant.

The contest's emphasis has been on books on culture, literature and art. The contest, held in a collective, group format, has also tried to strengthen a spirit of cooperation and team work among the participating students and encourage them to engage in practical group activities on a more regular basis.

Specialized Session: "Read with Me"

The organizers of the "Read with Me" scheme, a program initiated in 2011 aiming at promoting reading among children of poor and low-income families, held a session and a workshop on the sidelines of the 3rd Congress (2017). The program has been designed to facilitate provision of quality books for the children without easy access to public libraries and books.

Green Library and the Protection of the environment

The question of 'Green library' has been a matter of keen interest to the Congress of Information Science Experts since its inception in 2015. A special session entitled "Green Information: Library, a Point of Departure for Thinking about Environmental" was held at the 2nd Congress (2016) with the participation of environmental activists and a number of library managers from across the country. At the 3rd Congress, a special workshop entitled "Green Information: Librarian as a Promoter of the Environment" was held, which addressed raising public awareness on the proper use of environmental resources. Given the importance of the subject, and also in line with the Session's major theme, a special, innovative design entitled 'In Tribute to Trees that had been Converted into Books" was created. The special design involved planting a sapling in the premises of the Congress and a request from the participants to hang a piece of paper containing the name of the books of interest to them from the tree. The design was widely welcomed by the participants in the Congress and led to the introduction of more than 200 books. Subsequently, on the 2nd day of the Congress, in a special ceremony attended by librarians, experts and other participants, the sapling with the hanging paper pieces was planted in the premises of the National Library. Along the same line of thinking and spirit, an event entitled "Green Information: Sustainable Development" is scheduled to be held during the 4th Congress this year.

Training workshops

Two workshops, respectively on data governance and peer review in scientific journals, were held on the sidelines of the ...Congress. Both events, reserved for registered applicants only, received a high level of attention and interest among the participants. Despite the exhibited interest in such side activities, they will not be held during the 4th Congress due to time limitation and heavy schedule. However, according to Ebrahim Emrani, Executive Secretary of the 4th Congress, arrangements will be made for holding a number of training workshops following the conclusion of the Congress on topics of interest to the participants.

Annual Congresses of Information Science Professionals and Specialists: Keynote Speakers

Parisa Pasyar / Annual Congresses of Information Science Professionals and Specialists: Keynote Speakers

The morning of 7th November, 2015, some 500 Iranian librarians and information professionals at national library were waiting for the opening session of the 1st Annual Congress of Information Science Professionals held by Iranian Library and Information Science Association (ILISA). Contrary to expectations, something bad happened. They heard a terrible news that was with great sadness. No one, it seemed, wanted to hear news like this. Everyone was shocked and in consternation. The founder of Iran's modern librarianship and the veteran librarian Poori Soltani passed away ... Her name was tied to the name of ILISA. She always described the association as a symbol for solidarity and attended ILISA gatherings and meetings. She was one of the few volunteers who supported and donated ILISA. Her eyes never left ours, and this is why the candle of the congress will light forever. So far, three annual congresses were held: The first congress was on "Information and Society: Libraries, Archives, and Museum Services".

Needless to say that Boyd Ryvard and Barbara Tillett sent their messages to the congress as well as three keynote speakers from Iran."Library and Information Science and Services have never been more important than they are today in our increasingly globalised information based societies and economics". Ryvard pointed out "Nevertheless, while the field of library and information sciences and services has an essential role to play in the effective management of the ever easing global tide of information, the field faces its own special challenges. To continue to be effective it is having to adapt deeply rooted traditions of professional practice, education and research- and the organizations, systems, and services in which these traditions have been expressed- to the requirements of today's technologically complex information environment". Barbara Tillett's message to the congress entitled "Time for New Resource Discovery Tools in the Linked Data, Semantic Web Environment". To her mind, what we are suffering is a truly new generation of resource discovery tools to enable users to find, to identify selection, to obtain, and navigate information they need. Discovery tools could now take advantage of Web technologies to build on VIAF and bibliographic data, as well as other web-based information... It is not just a known-item search that users need, but the exploration of available recourse related to topics of interest that open up the bibliographic universe to our users.

Mohammad Abooyee Ardakani talked about creative management in information centres. He described the main role of a leader as a designer. The design is to see the delicacies in our environment so that we may add something interesting or worthwhile to what we call system. He added that for years our thought was based on an old pattern that computer centre was a place where there were some computers and a library was simply a place where the books were kept. It is obvious that the main function of computer centres is content management which librarians are responsible for.

Next was Hamid R. Jamali who talked about the changes and actions of libraries and today's users. As he provided in his presentation, some of the changes in libraries is about the users' behaviours. In the past they did study a source deeply, but nowadays they go from a source to another. It is not the case that they consume much more time on a website or spend their time for information transactions. They refuse to use complex tools for search and avoid using the library catalogues and databases with complex algorithms. Instead, they prefer to google because it is simple and they don't want to use their memory for learning. They want everything in their hands. When they can find everything in social media, Facebook and Twitter, they don't seek information tools and information resources anymore. They are satisfied with a very small dose of information that can be injected very quickly. He added "to face this challenge we don't have to change our user's behaviour and we are not expected to blame new generation for using their smart phones instead of the books and we should not ask them to behave in the way we expect.

The second annual congress was also a great event on "Open Access to Information in Citizenship Rights". F. Khosravi pointed out the open access law which has been discussed recently in Iran Parliament and explained that it was different from Open Access Movement which had come out of Budapest and based on the idea that individuals have access to scientific information. This law deals with citizenship rights and allow people to have access to information of government and nongovernment organizations. All the institutions are committed to make it available for people.

Steven Harnad was one of the keynote speakers of the second congress and talked about the history of open access (OA). He described OA as free, immediate, permanent, full text and continuous access to information and talked about gold and green open access. He explained that green OA was about self-archiving of peer-reviewed research journal articles in institutional repositories and gold OA deals with the articles publishing in open access journals. As he explained, he would mind the green open access more than the other.

Then the message of Birger Hjorland was read by Rahmatollah Fattahi for the participants. "The domain-analytic approach to knowledge organization claims that no technology or system can ever provide a neutral selection of information. Certain perspectives and interests always influence knowledge, information and documents and a given system, institution, or services can always be seen as "biased" in regard to what perspective or "paradigm" is favored at the expense of other perspectives or paradigms. Therefore, information specialists may uncover different paradigms and their influences in Knowledge Organization Systems and from that basis they may negotiate different positions and provide a well-informed solution. Therefore, there will always be a need for information specialists and Knowledge Organization knowing about the "bias" of different kinds of Knowledge Organization System and retrieval systems and providing their users the best choices".

Abdolreza Kordi from Cultrual and Art Organization of Tehran announced that the first integrated urban network for libraries was launched, and since then, aged people in Tehran could get information at home without going to the libraries.

Alireza Mokhtarpoor, Iran Public Library Foundation General Director talked about MAKTAB, a plan of gathering great libraries of Iran. Also, he opened some cultural points on the Sixth Development Programme in Iran and put the stress on the school libraries.

In the third year, the congress was on "Preservation and Dissemination of Written Heritage- Digital Heritage". Luciana Duranti was the keynote speaker of the congress and talked about Entrusting Facts to Archival Theory: Documentary Truth in a Networked Environment. She noted that trustworthiness in archival science deals with authenticity which means the trustworthiness of a document that is what it purports to be, untampered with and uncorrupted is based on identity and integrity Reliability.

Ashraf Boroujerdi, director of NLAI, talked about the contribution of NGOs in formation of the societies and their cultural heritage. She reviewed all the efforts of the government in 1997 for planning the civil society. She believed that a strong will was behind it; and before the year no attention was paid and there were many challenges for convincing politicians to make government responsible of facilities which help people develop NGOs.

Ali Zarafshan from Education Ministry talked about the necessity of information literacy and media literacy in schools. He also explained about PIRLS (Progress International Reading Literacy Study) and the situation of Iranian Students. He noted that preservation of digital and non-digital heritage is a thing related to the coming generation and first of all, it is necessary for us to teach them how to use it.

Now we are going to the fourth congress on LIS education in Iran. We have guests from UNIMARC committee of IFLA. Perhaps the next keynote speaker will be one of the members of the committee. Looking forward!

Iranian LIS Congress : A Historical Review

[*continued from Page 1*] ... the field of librarianship and information science. This decade experienced the formation of Medical Librarianship and Information Science Association followed by the institution of National Librarianship and Information Science Association of Iran in 2000. Also, National Library of Iran (NLAI) expanded its activities and was promoted as an independent entity working under the supervision of the President's Office. Moreover, introduction of librarianship and information science PhD courses coupled with expansion and promotion of scientific activities of librarianship and information science highlighted a stronger need for organizing scientific conventions and gatherings. These diverse and wide activities called for conventions to comment, criticize, reform and usher in novel approaches. For this, academic librarianship conventions were held on several occasions with diverse themes, the most notable of which were "the Seminar on the Role of Information Science in R&D" (1993, NIOC), "The First Seminar of Librarians of Iran Planning and Budget Organization" (1995, Bandar Abbas), "the Fourth International Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists" (Tehran, 1995), "the International Congress of Books and Libraries in Islamic Civilization" (Mashhad, 1995) etc. Most of these conventions were organized by academic libraries, Planning and Budget Organization and NLAI. Although these conventions were not regularly organized by a single organ, it created interesting sparks which created the platform for many subsequent scientific conventions and events in the next decade. One of these conventions was "the Convention on Application and Development of Computerized Lists in Iran Libraries" (Mashahd, 1999) which set the tone for many scientific orientations in 2000s in Iran.

2000s in Iran was the pinnacle of the activities and in many cases the maturity of scientific conventions in Iran. Quantitatively, 57 public and scientific conventions were held in the field of librarianship in 2000s in Iran. Iran's Librarianship and Information Science Association (ILISA) started its activities in earnest in this decade and regularly organized monthly science-topical meetings. The articles presented in this convention were published in form of three books. Iran's Librarianship and Information Science Association efforts as the steering entity of this field sparked the formation of a number of volunteer professional and students groups. Before the formation of ILISA, only one organization had to carry the executive burden of organizing a convention which would place massive pressure on the workforce of that organization. However, ILISA promoted participatory organization of conventions and events through identification and coordination of capable and volunteer forces and formation of active, administrative groups. For this, ADKA as "the Union of Scientific-Student Associations of Librarians of Iran" was set up which created a very successful profile in holding student-based conventions and events. Specialism and organizing specific, detailed conventions were the hallmarks of the conventions held in 2000s in Iran.

At the turn of 2010s and with growing number of post-graduates and the return of specialists who had been studying abroad on scholarships, it was revealed that changes were needed in the approaches of conventions as simple gatherings towards events with focus on the latest global and local findings and development. Subsequently, the feverish passion of holding numerous general, non-specific, quantitative conventions gave way to quality conventions which were focused on learning as their foundation pillar. Also, the experts found out that the quantitative growth of scientific conventions was excessive and bordering on redundancy.

To tackle this issue, ILISA as the non-governmental organ in charge of librarianship and information science of the country decided to employ a different methodology to organize conventions. Later, ILISA assigned students' conventions such as ADKA and progressive universities like Alzahra University to take care of smaller conventions and went about the creation of the Great Congress. This Congress which was set up in 2015 is not solely confined to librarians and covers all information experts like those working in archives, computer, IT etc. the diversity of themes and the extensive scope and coverage of the Congress has created a forum for exchange of ideas and expertise and maintaining a specialized discourse. As a result, the Congress has been greatly welcomed by its target audience. More than 1000 individuals participated in the third stage of the Congress in 2016. Many theme and ideas were for the first time sparked by this Congress and they are now gaining momentum as part of the mainstream movement of librarianship and information science of Iran.

One of the major flaws of librarianship and information science conventions in Iran is their disjointedness. In other words, many institutions or volunteer organs decide to organize single conventions with almost no follow-up edition in their own field of specialty or interest. Of regular conventions one can mention Alzahra University's Student Conventions, EDKA conventions and the Biennial Convention of Children's Literature organized by Children's Books Council. Of regular conventions which now have ceased to exist one can mention those organized by

Iran's Planning and Management organization which started in 2000 and regularly held up to 2008. Non-specificity is another shortcoming of librarianship and information science conventions held in Iran. In other words, we are yet to have a specialized convention that focuses on a thematic topic and annually follows that theme or its divisions. We hope that the congregation of general, small conventions in the Congress lays the platform for specific, continued conventions which could go on for several years.

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