

International Association of School Librarianship [iasl]

Peter J. Genco

Peter Genco is the current editor of the newsletter for the International Association of School Librarianship.

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With personal, institutional, and association memberships in over 70 countries, the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) provides a truly international forum for school librarianship and encourages the development of school libraries and school library programs throughout the world.

IASL promotes the professional preparation and continuing education of school librarians, fosters and extends relationships between school librarians and other professions connected with children and youth, and fosters communication and research in the field of school librarianship and related fields. IASL supports the publication and dissemination of information about school librarianship and materials for children and youth throughout the international community and initiates and coordinates activities, conferences, and other projects in the field of school librarianship.

Based on these general objectives, the board of IASL adopted a plan of action in July 1994. The plan outlines general objectives, specific objectives, strategies, agents, and performance criteria. The plan was distributed to all members of the association and will be revised annually.

In July 1994, IASL announced the publication of *Connections: School Library Associations and Contact People Worldwide*. More than 60 countries are included in the directory. In addition, IASL revised and reissued *Statement on School Libraries*. In early 1995, IASL published the first issue of a new professional journal, *School Libraries Worldwide*, which contains scholarly papers and other textual materials of interest to the profession. IASL continues to publish a quarterly newsletter and annual conference highlights.

The University of Pittsburgh was the site of the 23rd Annual Conference of IASL, which was held July 17-21, 1994. Dr. Blanche Woolls, Dr. Mary K. Biagini, and graduate students organized the conference under the theme "Literacy: Traditional, Cultural, Technological." One hundred forty school library professionals representing 12 countries attended the conference. Delegates came from Australia, Canada, Egypt, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In 1995, IASL will hold its annual conference in Worcester, England. The theme, "Sustaining the Vision," will begin a year-long celebration of activities leading to the 25th Annual Conference. The themes of the conference will be librarianship, literacy, children's

literature, and technology. The Silver Anniversary Conference of IASL will be held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica in late July 1996, the site of its 1971 inauguration. In 1997, IASL will return to Vancouver, British Columbia, the site of the formal beginning of the international school library forum.

The 1994 IASL/SIRS (Social Issues Resources Series) International Commendation Award was granted to SLAQ (School Library Association of Queensland) for its program entitled SAIL (Students as Independent Learners). This is a 15-hour progressional professional development program for school groups comprising administrators, teachers, and teacher-librarians. Its goal is to enable participants to understand the role that resource-based learning can play in the development of students as independent learners.

The IASL/UNESCO Co-Active Project No. 554 is a book development project funded by donation and special events. The 1994 award, \$1,000 (U.S. currency) was given to a school in the Republic of the Mala. The Leadership Development Grant is awarded annually to a person in a developing country. The \$1,000 award, plus conference registration, allows a potential leader in school library development the opportunity to attend an IASL conference.

IASL and Softlink International have established a one-time grant to be awarded at the 25th Annual Conference (1996). The \$1,500 (U.S. currency) grant supports an innovative research project in the field of school librarianship.

The 1994-95 IASL board consists of Lucille Thomas, President (USA); Gerald Brown, Vice President (Canada); Donald Adcock, Financial Officer (USA); Jean Lowrie, Executive Secretary (USA); Peter Genco, Newsletter Editor (USA); and Blanche Woolls, IFLA Liaison (USA). The directors on the board are Beatrice Anderson (Jamaica), David Elaturoti (Nigeria), Ken Haycock (Canada), Paul Lupton (Australia), Mieko Nagakura (Japan), Melvyn Rainey (Fiji), Felix Tawete (Swaziland), and Anne Taylor (Northern Ireland). Elections for president and the four directors will be held at the 1995 conference in Worcester, England.

Membership fees are \$25 per year, or \$70 for three years, for developed countries, and \$15 per year, or \$40 for three years, for developing countries. Special rates are available for students. Members receive the quarterly newsletter, a semi-annual journal, special mailings, and reduced conference rates. Information is available about IASL's many programs, including: Support-a-Friend, Leadership Development Grant, IASL/UNESCO Co-Action (book) Project, IASL/SIRS International Commendation Award, Annual International Book Exhibit, Annual Auction, IASL Newsletter, School Libraries Worldwide, and the upcoming conferences. Information and membership forms can be obtained from IASL Secretariat, P.O. Box 19586, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-0586, USA.