Foreword

The original intention behind this book was to be a festschrift in honour of Professor S.B. Ghosh, one of India’s most eminent library and information science academics. The original intention remains, that is, to honour Professor Ghosh and his many accomplishments. The book, however, has grown from something envisioned as a relatively simple project to a very extensive and diverse collection of chapters that document significant instances of collaboration involving libraries, professionals, and academics at national and international levels – things that Professor Ghosh has worked so hard for during his long and illustrious career.

I have known Professor Ghosh for almost 10 years through our participation in IFLA. From IFLA colleagues, I have heard about many of his contributions to the Indian and the global library communities, and I have personally witnessed Professor Ghosh exercising his sharp mind as an ardent member of the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO), which I have chaired for the past 4 years. I am also aware that he has participated enthusiastically in IFLA’s Education and Training Section (SET) as well as many groups in India. Given Professor Ghosh’s extensive service to the library and information science communities, you should not be surprised to find the large number of contributions to this book from some of the library world’s best known figures who all wish to honour Professor Ghosh and his many accomplishments.

The large list of contributors, and the wide range of countries from which they hail, confirm the high respect for Professor Ghosh worldwide. India, as one would expect, is well represented in the book as the home country for the highest number of contributors, followed by the United States, Norway, United Kingdom, and other countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Italy, the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, and Uganda.

Most of the book’s chapters focus on collaboration within and across different segments of the library community. For example, Deva E. Reddy’s chapter examines cooperation at the international level in agricultural research and information philanthropy, while Randi Ludvall’s contribution takes a look at international cooperation between two of the world’s most important school library groups – IFLA’s School Libraries and Resource Centers Section (SLRC) and the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL).

Several chapters offer perspectives on diverse projects in Library and Information Science (LIS) education. For example, Barbara I. Dewey’s chapter explores methodologies employed by research libraries in the United States to advance an international focus for internal and external audiences. Dewey uses examples such as the University of Tennessee’s Ready for the world initiative, a university-wide programme involving performances, lectures, book discussions, art exhibits, etc., to infuse international experience into the lives of its students so that they become truly global scholars. The chapter by Maria
G. N. Musoke and Ane Landoy explores the long running collaboration between the libraries at Makerere University in Uganda and the University of Bergen in Norway, which led to new partners at the University of Juba in South Sudan, the East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) at Makerere and the Norwegian School of Librarianship at the former Oslo University College. The project’s aim was to automate the library at the University of Juba and to train existing library staff as well as to sponsor young Sudanese for a Bachelor’s degree in Librarianship at EASLIS. Other chapters with education as their focus include the ones by Anna Maria Tammaro, who examines the Bologna approach in the internationalisation of LIS education, and the one by Swati Bhattacharyya, who explores an ICT-based collaborative approach to the internationalization of LIS education in India.

There are many other interesting chapters in this fine book. Ismail Abdulhli, for example, takes a look at ethical challenges in our profession due to globalisation. Angela Repanovic and Ane Landoy provide an interesting chapter in which they discuss four library-related areas of a collaborative programme between the University of Brasov in Romania and the University of Bergen in Norway. The four areas that the chapter focuses on are staff training programmes, development and research in information literacy, developing models of digital repositories, and research in library leadership. Achala Munigal and Susmita Chakraborty’s opening chapter investigates philanthropy with special reference to libraries in India.

Several chapters focus on unique institutions or programmes that are or have been supported through international cooperation. For example, Reeta Sharma and Shantanu Ganguly provide a case study of the Specialized Library on Climate Change (SLCC), which is a part of the Library and Information Centre (LIC) at TERI, a research organisation in New Delhi that focuses on sustainable development. The SLCC is a TERI initiative under the aegis of the Framework Agreement for the Programme of Cooperation on Energy, Environment, and Climate Change sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In another chapter, A. Neelameghan describes the plans and international collaborative efforts to develop information exchange networks connecting the Pacific island communities among themselves on the one hand and between them and the Pacific Rim countries and the rest of the world on the other. Neelameghan focuses on the Pan-Pacific Education and Communications Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) and discusses how this satellite network was used to “talk to” heads of libraries of several Pacific islands to obtain approval for a plan for an Asia-Pacific regional development information network, before submitting the plan document to funding agencies/sponsors.

The most poignant chapter in the book is A.K. Dasgupta’s very personal reflection on his friend, Badal, better known as Professor S.B. Gosh. Professor Dasgupta reflects on his long and close friendship with Professor Ghosh, and provides many insights into why Professor Gosh has become such as well-respected figure among librarians and LIS educators worldwide. You will find many interesting facts about Professor Ghosh in this chapter.

I have not been able to cover all the chapters in this book in my foreword, but by looking at the book’s table of contents, you will no doubt find chapters of interest to you. Behind them all is the recognition that Professor S.B. Ghosh is recognised around the world for his special contributions to library and information science as one of India’s most revered educators of recent times – and as a person who has fostered international cooperation in our discipline through his hard work in organisations such as IFLA.

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Dan Dorner is currently the Chair of the Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania, and the Secretary for Division 5 (Regions), in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. In 2010, he was awarded a LIANZA Fellowship, an honorary award by peer nomination and a prestigious award in the New Zealand library and information profession. He has held a variety of professional positions in Canadian and New Zealand libraries and information services, including at the University of Western Ontario, the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, and the National Library of New Zealand. Dan’s research interests fall into two distinct areas: (1) information literacy education in developing countries, and (2) issues affecting the management of digital information over time.