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Details of the 68th IFLA General Conference on 18–24 August 2002, Glasgow

"Libraries for life: Democracy, diversity, delivery"

Nobel Prize-winning poet *Seamus Heaney* and Children's Laureate *Anne Fine* will be special guest speakers at the 68th General Conference of the *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)*, to take place in Glasgow, Scotland from 18–24 August. Mr Heaney will deliver the opening lecture and novelist Anne Fine will be presenting a guest lecture.

"For many of us, IFLA 2002 will be the most diverse and wide-ranging library and information event to take place in the UK during our professional lives," says National Organising Committee Co-Chair *Ian McGowan*.

"The opportunity to take part, meet colleagues from all parts of the world and benefit from the perspective they bring to our professional concerns, learn from others and pass on what we have learned – all these make IFLA a top priority for hard-pressed conference and professional development budgets."

With the conference theme "Libraries for life: democracy, diversity, delivery", there is also a sub-theme "Building on the past – investing in the future", which will provide a common thread for the plenary sessions, such as those to be addressed by *Seamus Heaney* and *Anne Fine*.

"Satellite meetings will also reflect this theme," Mr McGowan says, "providing an opportunity to consider, for example, how librarians help young people to recognise when information is needed, and then how to find, evaluate and use it effectively."

Social events will have a distinctively Scottish flavour, with receptions at Glasgow's newly opened Science Centre and Edinburgh's Museum of Scotland, and the option of a seat on the Edinburgh Castle esplanade for the Military Tattoo.

For representatives of Carnegie libraries from around the world, a special program-

me will commemorate the Scottish-born philanthropist's extraordinary impact on public libraries.

With a major international trade exhibition, visits to a wide variety of library and information centres in the central Belt of Scotland, and the staging of one of the largest ever meetings of mobile libraries, "it seems excessively modest to describe IFLA as a single event," Mr McGowan concludes. "In fact, many of IFLA's constituent parts could plausibly claim to be conferences in their own right."

IFLA 2002 is doubly significant because it marks the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Federation, in Edinburgh in 1927, and it also coincides with the 125th anniversary of the *Library Association* and the year of its unification with the *Institute of Information Scientists* to form *CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*. ■ *cp*

IFLA 2002: Genève?

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IFLA/LA/CILIP

Further information on IFLA can be found on its Website - www.ifla.org.

Contact *The Library Association (LA)* at ifla@la-hq.org.uk for further details on the professional programme and practical information on registration and accommodation.

IFLA is a nonpolitical, nongovernmental organisation whose object is to promote the development of high quality library and information services of all kinds throughout the world.

Formed in 1927, it has over 1600 members in 143 countries around the world.

It believes that people, communities and organisations need for their physical, mental, democratic and economic well-being, free access to information, ideas and works of imagination. Provision and delivery of high quality library and information services help guarantee that access.

IFLA is committed to enabling library associations and institutions throughout the world, and their staff, to participate in the

work of the Federation regardless of geographical location.

The Library Association, which is managing the 2002 IFLA Conference and exhibition on behalf of IFLA's National Organising Committee, is a major membership body for library and information professionals with approaching 24 000 members. In April, it unifies with the *Institute of Information Scientists* to form *CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*. Further information is available on its Website – www.la-hq.org.uk. ■

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