

# AILIS

## Association of International Librarians and Information Specialists

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### President's report

#### Executive committee in 2003

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The executive Committee has, as usual, met monthly in 2004, except for the months of July and August.

#### AILIS activities in 2004

The association continued its life-rhythm of the library science talks, luncheons and specialized courses, with the frequency of one event per 3-4 weeks. In this way most members find something they are interested to participate in, some have even claimed that interesting events were scheduled too often!

We all have different expectations to the Library Science Talks and sometimes the speaker does not match these a 100%. However, I think all of us have learned new things even from the talks that turned out to be different from our expectations. In general the speakers have all been on an international level and treated topics that are highly relevant for the challenges we meet in our daily work.

The luncheons are very useful for meeting with other members in addition to learning more about the topic of the day. The WHO Restaurant has finally understood our need for having a separate room for these events, so after a long struggle we have now the possibility to fully enjoy the talks of our invited speakers.

As a response to the successful MARC21 training course in 2003, the Executive Committee decided to follow up with a similar course, to be held in French, in 2004. This course ended up being so popular that there was no need for subsidies, another clear signal that more such courses should be organized in the future.

To promote the use of digital object identifiers (DOI) AILIS, in collaboration with the International DOI Foundation, organized a seminar on this topic. The event attracted a wide audience and was considered as successful. However, it is still unclear how it has influenced the attitude to, or even awareness of, DOIs within the international organizations.

AILIS was, as two years ago, invited to join the digital library school, organized by CERN and Ticer, for a half-day course. The course comprised one double lecture, “The Digital Library and e-Publishing : Leadership and marketing aspects”, given by Rick Luce, Los Alamos National Laboratory and one lecture, “Marketing the digital library” given by our “own” Yvonne Grandbois. Both speakers talked to us in a very engaging way that made the afternoon a memorable event. To thank for the invitation AILIS offered a cocktail, which was very well received, in the CERN Library garden for all the participants to the school.

The annual study day was devoted to visiting a local treasure in Cologne. Following a lovely meal in a local restaurant, the group was warmly welcomed in Bibliotheca Bodmeriana. We had a first-class visit that gave quite some inspiration – it kind of puts our work in perspective when you can look with your own eyes at Dead Sea scrolls and a Gutenberg bible.

AILIS still has too few individual members compared to the potential. This might of course be related to the fact that most events are open to everybody. We have often seen a peak of new subscriptions when we organize events, like the MARC21 course, limited to members only. The Executive Committee should therefore make an effort to have an annual program that gets librarians and information specialist in Geneva to naturally subscribe themselves as members.

The Executive Committee, which is now reaching the end of its three-year mandate, is grateful to all institutional and individual members who have participated in making 2004 another successful year for the association.