

FOREWORD

The 1974 Unesco Intergovernmental Conference on the Planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures was planned and organized in co-operation with the three non-governmental organizations, the International Federation for Documentation (FID), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the International Council for Archives (ICA), and as part of their contribution to the Conference each organization provided a relevant background paper. That from IFLA was entitled *Universal Bibliographic Control* and was an exposition of IFLA's newly adopted major programme, put forward for approval and acceptance by the Conference delegates. As stated in the IFLA document:

"The concept of UBC emphasizes an extra factor for consideration by the Intergovernmental Conference: that national library archive and documentation systems cannot be planned in isolation and that each country in planning its own systems should bear in mind the contribution it can receive from the rest of the world and the contribution it can make." (COM-74/NATIS/Ref. 3, p. 6)

At the 1974 Conference the original IFLA paper had been severely cut for distribution to the delegates, and because of this, IFLA took an early opportunity to publish the full text. That publication, *Universal Bibliographic Control: a long term policy, a plan for action*, one of the first publications produced by K.G. Saur Verlag for IFLA, served as the basis for the UBC programme and is now out of print. Moreover, as a natural consequence of the programme development, much of its contents in respect of actual practices and proposed projects is out of date. The opportunity has been taken, therefore, not to revise the UBC book but to produce a more discursive text giving an account of what has happened in the past decade in advancing ideas of bibliographic control, standard cataloguing practices, and compatible bibliographic records. This new publication updates the contents of the 1974 book and replaces it: but in so doing, it maintains and enhances the basic philosophy of the IFLA UBC programme as promulgated in 1974. The comment quoted above still stands.

The present text was originally prepared for publication in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, and as well as appearing as *Occasional Paper*, No. 10 of the IFLA UBC Office series, it will also be published in Volume 37 of the *Encyclopedia* in 1983. The references in the text have been set out in accordance with the *Encyclopedia* style manual.

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