FAIFE sessions - a success at IFLA 2010 in Gothenburg

EDITORIAL
By Kai Ekholm, Chair of FAIFE

Dear friends of FAIFE,

The last years have been busy for FAIFE and Faifeans. There have been numerous rewarding training sessions around the world. Our former chair Professor Paul Sturges received a prestigious OBE award, and finally the recently launched FAIFE IFLA World Report 2010 gives us access to a wealth of new information.

As chair I'm most happy that the FAIFE mission was received in Gothenburg so positively. Our two sessions gathered over 400 people and thus were a great success.

Kai Ekholm

Session I

The first FAIFE Session was held on Friday 13th July under a title "Have the censors retired or just gone to the Internet?" Session included four speeches: **Dr. Ismail Serageldin** (Director of the Library of Alexandria, Egypt), as a keynote speaker gave a historical overview over the evolution of censorship, **Erland Kolding** *Nielsen* (National Library of Denmark) spoke about the cartoons of prophet Muhammad which evolved controversial public reactions in Denmark and beyond, **Professor Theo Bothma** (FAIFE Expert Resource Person) introduced the new face of the IFLA World Report on the net and **Loida Garcia-Febo** (FAIFE Committee member) presented how FAIFE has extended communication channels in social media. In the end, the Chair of the FAIFE Committee, *Kai Ekholm* (Director of the Finnish National Library) gave a presentation about censorship on the net.
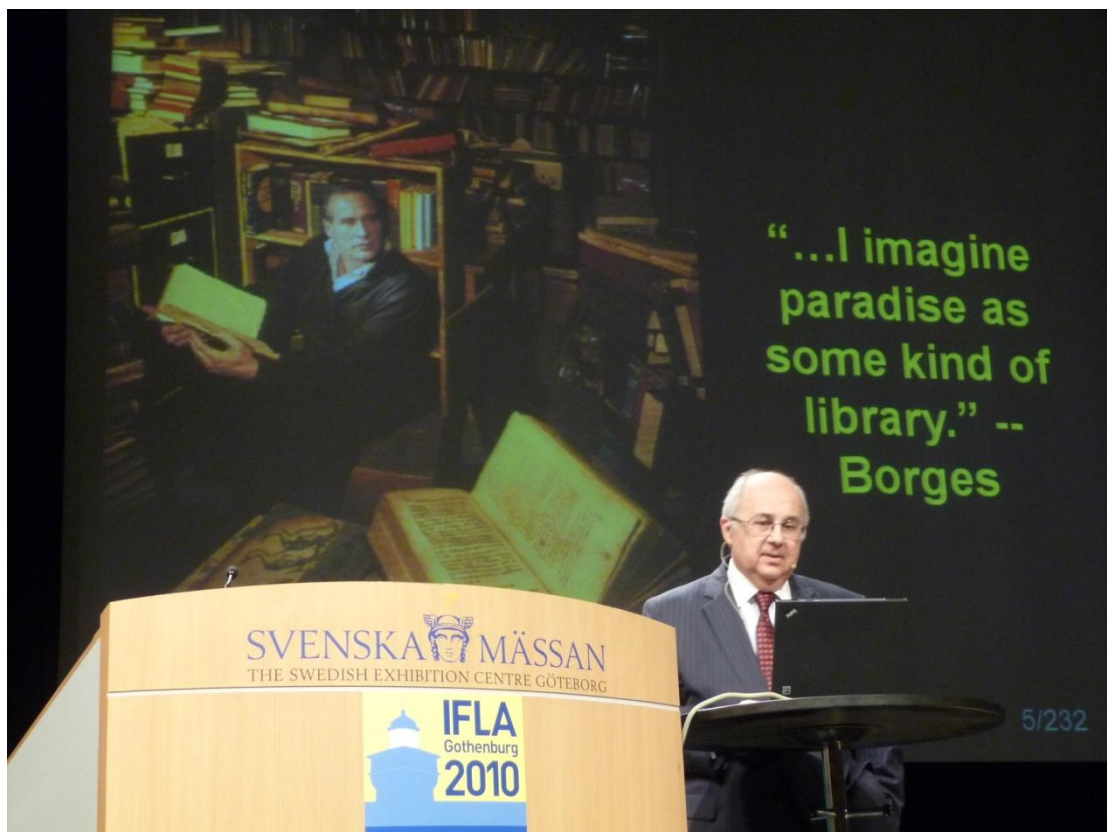You can view the video from this session here.

Audience during the FAIFE Session

The Director of the Library of Alexandria, Professor **Ismail Serageldin** gave us a real tour de force with some 250 slides. His presentation enlightened the audience about the origins of copyright and led us to the era of the modern censorship.

Beginning with an examination of the roots of copyright and censorship since the birth of printing press (1476), Serageldin indicated that major turning points for copyright and censorship arrangements included English, French and American revolutions. Accordingly, developments in publishing technologies and changing power relations within society were reflected on the level of censorship.

Surprisingly, copyright and censorship have been closely linked to each other during their history. Copyright has been used largely as a tool for censorship by defining and limiting rights to print. Copyright in this respect was not so much related to rights of authors, but it was used as a provision for social control.

Limited copyright was first expressed by Jefferson and Madison. They suggested copyright "for limited times", which was intended for 14-19 years. Copyright was not originally thought to be in force for 50-70 years or for a lifetime of an author as it exists for now.

Ismail Serageldin

The main topics of censorship haven't much changed during centuries. According to Serageldin, censorship started around "king, God and sex". What we can see today, is that concerns of censorship seem to continue around political, religious and sexual topics.

Today, WIPO governs 23 agreements to copyright. The future trend is towards rising demands for freedom of expression, participation, democracy and more open access on information. However, commercial interests have also become stronger and they largely regulate distribution and access on information from parties who doesn't have money to pay for these information resources. So, access on information is not only restricted because of censorship, but commercial hurdles also have a strong impact on accessibility of information.

Serageldin defined himself as a book lover and technology enthusiastic, who has "all information, to all people and at all times" as his working paradigm. He encouraged the audience to be creative with new business models and to struggle against censorship and reminded the audience never to doubt that thoughtful committed citizens could not change the world.

The Director of the Danish National Library **Erland Kolding Nielsen** gave us invaluable information of the Danish Cartoon Controversy, the case of the prophet Mohammed cartoons. Kolding Nielsen showed how the national case (12 small cartoons) escalated to a global crisis with more than 100 people killed during related riots. Consequently, the Danish artists involved now live under police surveillance and the Yale University took a path of self censorship while not wanting to publish the original pictures in an academic book.

Kolding Nielsen gave us insider information how to handle the ultimately controversial material at the Danish Royal Library. The National Library has many other cartoon collections and wanted to add these to its collections as well. It took a while, many negotiations and meeting the Danish imams to finally get the pictures to the collection of KB. Their public presentation is still not possible and they are kept in secret place that only three people at the library know.

The case seemed to have a follow up in South Africa when in summer 2010 the cartoonist Zapiro made his infamous cartoon and caused a new controversy.

Professor Kai Ekholm pointed out in his presentation that classical censorship is still with us. Books are burned in New Mexico (Harry Potter), in Pakistan and in Palestinian and Israel.
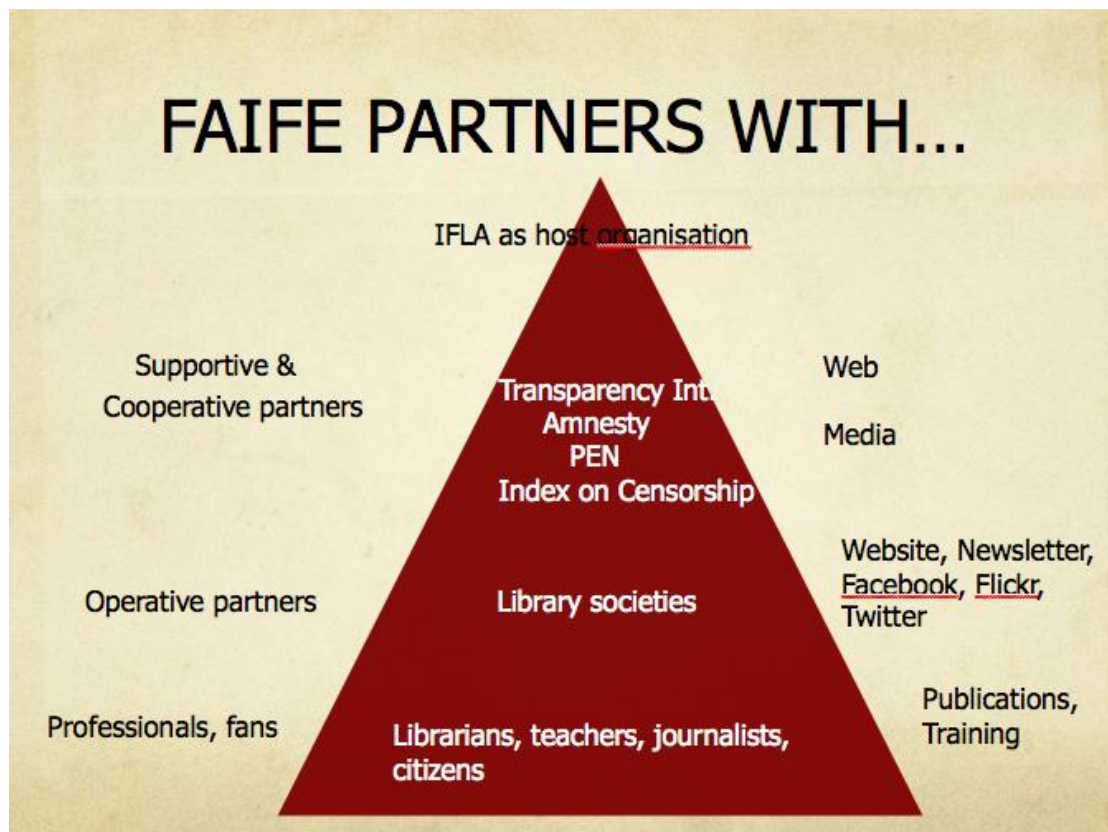
Erland Kolding Nielsen

We are thus moving from tangible censorship to intangible. Reporters sans Frontiers report that Internet censorship increased rapidly last year, with 60 countries censoring the Internet in 2009. Many of these countries, such as China, Vietnam, Iran, Syria, Egypt, North Korea and Myanmar have new laws to prevent the freedom of speech of the citizens.

Totalitarian countries are replacing Internet with national intranets. In 2010 120 persons are imprisoned for their opinions expressed in the net. 72 of these are in China, 17 in Vietnam and 13 in Iran. In the case of Iran, In Iran, the 13 have been jailed for publishing 'wrong opinions' on the Internet. These wrong opinions include the usual suspects - blasphemy, or risks to the national security.

FAIFE needs to discuss more of the new surveillance laws incorporated in these countries and also as used in western countries as the FRA law in Sweden, the Patriot act and the so-called soft surveillance of the commercial companies like Google or Amazon. Do they really have to know so much of our inner life?

In his presentation, Kai Ekholm pointed out what FAIFE can do. By selecting our focus and tactics well we can be successful and reach our goals. He introduced a new FAIFE Media plan, a FAIFE Training plan and the FAIFE Network to audience.

FAIFE will need more partners as well and they can be presented as follows:

FAIFE PARTNERS WITH...

IFLA as host organisation

Supportive & Cooperative partners

Transparency Int.
Amnesty
PEN
Index on Censorship

Web

Media

Operative partners

Library societies

Website, Newsletter, Facebook, Flickr, Twitter

Professionals, fans

Librarians, teachers, journalists, citizens

Publications, Training

Naturally FAIFE has limited resources and it cannot respond to every cry for help in the world. We must therefore concentrate on training, bringing vital topics to discussion and supporting our members, as well as creating a strong network of specialists around the globe.

In his presentation, Professor **Theo Botha** presented a new version of **IFLA World Report** with an improved user interface. The latest World Report covers large amounts of data on the status of intellectual freedom and censorship from more than 120 countries. The new version of the World Report gives easy access to this data through a map interface. Also, a new version enables flexible comparison of selected data from different countries.

Theo Bothma

The report includes questions on:

- Internet access in libraries
- Copyright
- Library initiatives for providing information to different categories of citizens (such as senior citizens, women, the disabled and visually impaired)
- The role of libraries in universal primary education and environmental sustainability

Full details of the report are available [here](#).

Loida Garcia-Febo

FAIFE Committee member **Loida Garcia-Febo** finished the session by giving an overview of FAIFE's training around the world. FAIFE training programmes have successfully followed a "cascading model" – by training the trainers, who spread the ideas of the FAIFE training materials further in local training sessions.

You can view the video from this session here.

Session II

The second FAIFE session on Saturday 14th August was arranged together with the Information Technology section of IFLA and chaired by Edmund Balnaves. As a keynote speaker we had **Christian Engström** (European Parliament for Piratepartiet, Sweden) who spoke about ACTA Agreement and threats of censorship on Internet. **Stuart Hamilton** (Senior Policy Adviser, IFLA, The Hague, Netherlands) complemented this issue further from the perspective of libraries in his speech. **Jonathan Hernandez Perez** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico) reflected Google's position in relation to library information resources in Mexico. Terry Weech introduced a presentation by **Kate Williams** (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Urbana, Illinois, USA) about the Cybernavigators program to enhance low-income library user's skills. **Kerry Smith** (Department of Information Studies, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, WA, Australia) presented a network of researchers around information commons (RIC).

Päivikki Karhula

Finally, the last presentation opened views on the future of censorship. **Päivikki Karhula** (Library of the Finnish Parliament, Helsinki, Finland) made an introduction to new information architectures, which are under development based on ubiquitous technologies. This setting is likely to strengthen the potential direct and indirect censorship through extended user recognition, locating and data surveillance. Also Barbara Jones, FAIFE expert resource person and present Director of the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom indicated what libraries can do to promote freedom of information and how they can work against censorship through library associations.

The first speaker, **Christian Engström**, defined himself as the only pirate at the European Parliament since 2009. He found similarities between perspectives of public libraries and the Pirate Bay (a search engine for shared files) - they both share culture for free. Also, when going back to history, libraries have also raised same kind of concerns about decreasing sales of books – who would buy books any more, if books can be loaned for free in the library?

Engström underlined how the Pirate Party wishes to reform copyright. He discussed how moral rights and ethics on the Internet ("netiqette") are fine principles but went on to point out that the downside of copyright legislation is that it has become too complicated for ordinary people, it holds too long protection times and regulates too heavily the free culture on the net.

Engström spoke in favour of a radically reduced protection time for copyright for only 5 years. This would be in line with the lifecycle of cultural products, which has lately become very short. Basically there is significantly less interest in cultural products which are older than 5 years. More open culture for content production and sharing of information on the Internet would be necessary also to encourage innovation and creativity. If you legalize it (free culture), you get more of it, concluded Engström.

The ACTA agreement

The ACTA agreement between EU, USA and some other countries concerning intellectual property was another main theme of Engström's speech. According to Engström the core problem with ACTA is structural. WIPO, the UN organisation which governs international copyrights contracts, is fairly open and their working principles are reasonable. They invite a lot of NGOs and third world countries have a say in their negotiations. However, US initiatives (like ACTA) have brought different kind of aspects to contractual procedures. They have introduced pluri-lateral agreements, which are contracts between a group of countries that agree on certain ideology. When they have made a contract based on their views, they may proceed by making bi-lateral agreements with other countries. Unfortunately, these practices can become a way to push forward certain types of practices, which may turn out to become especially unfavourable for third world countries. The strongest parties can this way define the terms and conditions of contracts and leave the others in a position where they can accept or leave the whole package, with little space for modifications. However, third world countries cannot often afford to stay outside of these contracts due to financial reasons. This structural problem also concerns the ACTA agreement.

The other problem with ACTA is that it is partially a covered up agreement. If it only concerned organized crime then even the Pirate Party would be in favour of it. However, there is more than that within the draft ACTA agreement – such as harsher control mechanisms over the use of Internet in general.

Concerning some other alarming issues, Engström took up the work of EU Commisser Malmström, which is looking at freedom, security and rights related issues in the EU. Malmström's commission has introduced initiatives related to censorship on the net, which seem to bring forth practices of blocking and filtering which could be taken into use without court decision. Often, as in here, arguments for extensions of censorship are based on protection of children, practically to filter out child pornography. Engström however dared to doubt efficiency of the filters for child porn on Internet – saying that these are the kinds of materials which are not largely advertised or openly delivered through Internet. He also suggested that the volume of this kind of information is not high. It is unlikely therefore that filtering on Internet really would be an efficient tool to solve this particular problem. However, it would introduce stronger control mechanisms for the use of Internet which would concern all users.

More about ACTA

Stuart Hamilton in his commentary speech addressed the ACTA agreement from standpoint of intellectual freedom and libraries. Concerns about the ACTA agreement have increased during the last year, when rumours spread about different kinds of monitoring models of user data, which were included in the draft agreement. For example, there were concerns that ACTA would give customs official power to search laptops when citizens cross borders. Civil society groups became worried about these rumours and demanded a draft of the contract to be released.

Unfortunately, when a draft of the agreement was finally released in April 2010, it turned out that worries about the content of agreement were not misplaced. After that, a group of 90 academics, IT-specialists and public interest organizations met and analyzed the agreement intensively for 3 days. The main conclusion was that ACTA negotiations lacked transparency and favoured the rightsholders over creators. The draft agreement gave specific rights and remedies for right holders without corresponding exceptions and limitations or safeguards for users. Altogether, it seemed like ACTA would globalize anti-circumvention provisions, which therefore would threaten innovation and have a negative effect on competition, open source business models, copyright exceptions and user choices.

However, censorship on the net does not only proceed through filtering, blocking and agreements like ACTA but also through other means which would regulate creation and distribution of information or monitor user's communication. According to Hamilton, Internet surveillance and censorship are closely related to each other in different countries and this can be seen in the latest IFLA World report.

Hamilton felt it was reasonable to ask if ACTA would be a new instrument to limit transparency in copyright legislation. WIPO has the authority to govern multilateral agreements on copyright, so what is the purpose and need for other kinds of agreement?

And how does it relate to libraries? What is the role of libraries in this setting of control? Are we subscribers for ISPs or are libraries ISPs themselves? Are we expected to police and monitor our users more accurately such as in the US where universities already need to monitor their students to control file sharing on their network? It is worth bearing in mind that these kinds of development directions are not only limited to the ACTA agreement but may also come up with other legislative projects such as the Digital Economy Act which is under discussion in UK.

How can libraries act with these issues?

Hamilton reminded the audience that IFLA has a seat at the WIPO table and the possibility to take a floor and comment on copyright issues. IFLA will continue to engage and monitor these issues further in WIPO.

Google and librarianship

Jonathan Hernandez Perez talked about interactions between Google and librarianship from a Mexican perspective. Within the last 5 years, the number of Internet users has increased 50 % in Mexico. About half of the Internet users are younger than 23 years old. Perez interpreted this group as the Google-generation, who are more comfortable with computers and expect that access on the net will be available anytime and anywhere.

However, access to the Internet is limited and should be extended through public libraries in Mexico. Perez underlined that freedom of access to information is a fundamental right and access to information should be supported in all formats. Concerning availability of information, Perez emphasized that it is necessary also to create alternative local visions for digitisation, since Google's position and possibilities to regulate access on information has became stronger than any public and private effort so far. Altogether, becoming deeply dependent on Google may not serve free and public access in a long run.

Cybernavigator program

Terry Weech gave a presentation on behalf of **Kate Williams**, who was not able to attend the conference due an emergency case at home. Williams indicated in her presentation that public libraries have become more important as a place for communication and computing, not only because of books and loans. Chicago public library has created a Cybernavigator program to support the Internet skills of low-income library users.

Australian researchers' network

Kerry Smith described an Australian researchers' network around the information commons (RIC). Her approach to open access extended from the traditional information based views. Principles of open and public access are not necessarily related to information only. They may cover parks where we can walk, listen, see and take pictures. The beach where everyone can relax and take a bath are also important commons where everyone can enjoy for free. There is a need to define generally what the public domain and information commons are about.

Päivikki Karhula introduced developments for new information architectures, which are based on implementation of ubiquitous technologies. These technologies will bring forth strengthened potential for structures of control. Architecture of control is mainly based on three practices: user identification, user locating and extended data collection on

user information behaviour and other activities. If these practices become commonplace, they basically enable collecting of users' footsteps everywhere and making them visible.

How does this relate to libraries?

These developments are likely to radically reduce space of anonymity and privacy on the net. Traditional library values include anonymity and private search and use of information. In future structures of information environment, conditions of anonymity and private use of information will become strongly challenged.

Libraries need to become aware of this development and gain skills to be able to support their users' abilities to have control over their data and protect their privacy on the Internet. Since there are limited practical solutions for privacy protection and anonymity, libraries should also become active members of user groups and civil society movements which require adequate means for safer use of Internet and promote intellectual freedom. User group advocacy has often turned out to be efficient, even with the major service providers. Libraries can also clarify their position in regard to data collection and sharing through their practices and policies by defining that they avoid unnecessary identification, locating and extended data collection. It may also be important to indicate the threats of these practices for decision makers and technology developers and require availability of safeguards or avoidance of certain practices to guarantee safe use of Internet for future library users.
You can view several videos from this session [here](#).

ALLOW ME AGAIN TO THANK YOU ALL OF THE RECENT SUCCESS OF FAIFE SESSIONS IN GOTHENBURG. WE ARE WORKING EVEN HARDER TO GET YOUR ATTENTION AT THE NEXT IFLA IN 2011.

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