



Nomination for IFLA Honours and Awards

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

Prof. Mirna Willer

a) Length of service to IFLA:

Mirna's almost thirty-year contribution to IFLA started in 1991 within the IFLA UBCIM Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) as a standing member. From 1995 to 1997 she was the vice-chair of PUC, from 1997 to 2003 she was the chair and since 2003 Mirna has been an honorary member and consultant. All the while she was engaged in the UNIMARC program, Mirna also worked in the related field of cataloguing standards. Between 1996 and 1998 she worked with the IFLA Working Group on Minimal Level Authority Records and the ISADN; between 1998 and 2004 with the IFLA Working Group on Metadata; between 1999 and 2003 with the IFLA Working Group on the Functional Requirements and Numbering of Name Authority Records (FRANAR); between 2002 and 2003 she was the member of the IFLA UBCIM (IFLA Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC Core Activity (UBCIM) Advisory Board; from 2001 to 2003 she worked with the IFLA Information Technology Section; from 2004 to 2007 with the IFLA Study Group on Future Directions on the ISBDs; and from 2005 she has been working with the IFLA ISBD Review Group. All this data is presented in Mirna's CV accessible at <http://ozk.unizd.hr/ssob/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/mirna-willer-cv.pdf>.

b) Nature of service to IFLA:

Mirna's major contribution to the work of IFLA has always been connected to *cataloguing standards*, mainly in the field of *cataloguing rules*, *conceptual models of bibliographic and authority data*, as well as *MARC formats* and *metadata schemes*. Participating in different working groups, Mirna made a great effort to harmonize these related areas, trying to maintain the constant and recognizable IFLA concept of worldwide universal cataloguing standards. We would especially like to point out her contribution to the maintenance of the *ISBD standard* in her role as a member of the IFLA Study Group on Future Directions on the ISBDs, a work that she continued as a member and chair of the ISBD Review Group. During that period Mirna strongly supported the idea of the ISBD Consolidated Edition and the idea of harmonizing the ISBD with the FR conceptual models of bibliographic and authority records. Concurrent with her work on cataloguing standards, Mirna was also working in the field of *UNIMARC formats*, mainly for

bibliographic and authority data. The importance of her work is significant in two main areas, the publishing of the UNIMARC Manuals and the modernization of the UNIMARC format. She closely collaborated with Alan Hopkinson on the last two editions of the UNIMARC Bibliographic Format Manual, and as a mail editor prepared the 3rd edition of the UNIMARC Authorities Format Manual. Equally significant was Mirna's work on the modernization of UNIMARC. Working on conceptual models of bibliographic and authority data, she made great effort in harmonizing UNIMARC with all FR family models. In recent years, together with Gordon Dunsire, Mirna was a leading member of the project UNIMARC in RDF, which resulted in the decision to create and maintain UNIMARC elements and vocabularies in Open Metadata Registry.

Equally significant to IFLA is Mirna's work on popularizing UNIMARC in the region in which she's been living and working. Due to the influence of her undisputed expertise in librarianship, most South-East European countries adopted UNIMARC as the national format for recording bibliographic and authority data.

c) Significance of that service to IFLA, and its impact on IFLA:

In her professional and pedagogical work as a librarian and university professor, Mirna combined her theoretical knowledge and practical experience from the field of cataloguing. She also brought said knowledge and experience along with her work ethic to IFLA. The result of her work and that of the groups she was a part of is modern and complex cataloguing standards of much higher quality than before. We cannot overlook the fact that Mirna has been an individual part of IFLA for many years; namely, when she left the national library to work at a university, she lost the financial support for her IFLA-related activities. Despite a hard task of gathering funds that enabled active participation in working groups she never gave up her cooperation with IFLA.

The impact of Mirna's work on IFLA is especially noticeable in technologically innovative fields. As a member of the IFLA Study Group on Future Directions on the ISBDs, she opted to work in the ISBD-XML Study Group that transformed into the ISBD-LD Study Group, from which LIDATEC, the leading technological group in the field of IFLA standards, emerged. Today Mirna is a member of the editorial board of the ISBD for the Manifestation Task Force that is shortly expected to publish the first edition of the ISBD standard, which will be harmonized with the IFLA Library Reference Model.

From this concise overview of Mirna Willer's thirty-year activity in IFLA, it is evident just how much Mirna and the members of her working groups contributed to IFLA's catalogue of new and innovative cataloguing standards. Of equal importance is Mirna's highly contagious professional work ethic, which improved the quality of work at IFLA.

