



25 September 1997

Liisa Niinikangas
Information Specialist
Partner, Lighthouse Consulting
FINLAND

Dear Liisa,

We would like to officially welcome you as a member of the IFLA (International Federation of Library Institutions and Associations) Section of School Libraries and Resource Centres' International Research Reference Group (IRRG).

Members of the IRRG have been nominated to conduct the replication of a quantitative research project developed by James Henri and Lyn Hay entitled *Principals and school librarians working within an information literate school community*. This project is designed to examine the ways in which principals work to support teacher librarians in the implementation of information literacy programs in schools.

In December 1995 IFLA's Division III (Libraries Serving the General Public) agreed to provide funding to facilitate the development and replication of these Australian-based survey instruments on an international scale. The objectives of this international research project are to:

- identify the forms of support for teacher librarians offered by principals
- identify the types of actions taken by teacher librarians to develop principal support
- identify effective strategies implemented by principals and teacher librarians in developing information literate school communities
- identify the professional development needs of principals and teacher librarians with respect to developing an information literate school community
- design a model questionnaire on the role of the principal in developing and supporting an information literate school community for use in English speaking countries and suitable for translation

- foster collaboration in research within school librarianship on an international scale
- contribute to the development and publication of an international set of guidelines for principals and teacher librarians in developing effective information services and supporting information literacy programs in schools.

In July 1996 IASL (International Association of School Librarianship) awarded the project coordinators, with the assistance of Dianne Oberg, additional funding to further support the implementation of these survey instruments in the six IRRG countries consisting of Canada, France, Japan, Finland, South Korea and Scotland.

The members of the IRRG include representatives from the following countries:

Lyn Hay and James Henri	Australia
Dianne Oberg	Canada
Liisa Niinikangas	Finland
Colette Charrier	France
Setsuko Koga	Japan
James Herring	Scotland
Yoon Ok Han	South Korea

Each member of the IRRG will receive a combined IFLA/IASL research grant of a total of \$AUD600.00 to support the replication of this study in their country. We understand the amount of grant monies provided is nominal and strongly recommend that members seek additional funding from sources within their country, eg. education ministries or professional library associations, to provide further financial assistance in administering the survey instrument during 1997-1998.

It is expected that each member of the IRRG will attend IFLA'98 annual conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands to share their research findings.

We believe this international research project can provide information that will be useful to principals and teacher librarians as they struggle in difficult times to provide quality schooling worldwide. We are delighted that you are willing to assist us in this endeavour.

Kind regards,

Lyn Hay and James Henri
IFLA International Research Reference Group (IRRG) Coordinators