FOREWORD

The papers collected in this volume have been selected from the proceedings of the Sixth World Conference on Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning for the Library and Information Professions. The Conference was held in Oslo from 10-13th August, preceding the 71st World Library and Information Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). The Conference was the first conducted under the auspices of the IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section, formerly the Continuing Professional Education Round Table (CPERT).

Since the first conference in the series was held at the Moraine Valley Community College, Chicago, in 1985, the Conference has become established as the leading international meeting dedicated to the practice and theory of continuing professional development for library and information professionals. It is testimony to the importance of the conference that the call for papers for this Sixth World Conference attracted in excess of eighty submissions from all corners of the globe.

The Conference was conducted under the theme ‘Preparing for New Roles in Libraries’, a reminder that the library and information professions continue to be buffeted by various technological, social and economic factors that induce ongoing change and the emergence of new professional roles. The constant need to be both proactive and reactive to the pressure of change cannot have impacted so significantly on other professions as it has on the library and information profession. Indeed it is change that it is at the heart of the need for ongoing professional development. We are confident that the papers presented in this volume will be an invaluable source of information and inspiration.

We are also pleased to be able to present in this volume the text of the Inaugural Elizabeth W. Stone Lecture, presented by Blanche Woolls. As recounted in this lecture, Dr Elizabeth Stone was both the driving force behind the creation of CPERT and its first President. That the Section continues to be such an active and influential component of IFLA is due in a large way to Dr Stone’s initial vision and energy. It is the intention that the Elizabeth W. Stone Lecture will be a highlight of future conferences as a means of honouring the ongoing importance of her contribution.

The editors would like to thank those who joined them on the Program Committee for their diligence and thoughtfulness; Ann Ritchie (Northern Territory Library, Darwin, Australia) and Ian Smith (La Trobe University Library, Melbourne, Australia). All abstracts and written papers were submitted to an independent refereeing process. Not all papers or workshops presented at the Conference are represented in this collection, and we would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Conference by sharing their expertise and knowledge. We also wish to acknowledge K.G. Saur for their continued role in bringing these important papers to a wider audience.

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