### Background and Beginning of the Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) Conference

by Tefko Saracevic

The Libraries in Digital Age (LIDA) conference, held annually in Dubrovnik, Croatia, starting in 2000 and moving to Zadar, Croatia in 2009, had two significant precursors. The earlier one was a series of conferences organized at the Interuniversity Center in Dubrovnik by Prof. Bozo Tezak (1907-1980). These conferences, held in 1977, 1979 and 1980, had a general title “Universities in World Network of Information and Communication” and attracted an international audience. Among the issues raised in presentation and lively discussions were effects of technology on libraries and universities. Digital libraries were not around then, but the subject of libraries, technologies and networks was very much present.

The later precursor was the Third International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (COLIS 3) held in May 1999, also in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Conference chairs were Peter Ingwersen, Denmark, and Tatjana Aparac-Jelusic, Croatia, and Pertti Vakkari, Finland; program chair was Tefko Saracevic of the United States. The theme of the conference was digital libraries; papers and discussions covered a wide range of related issues and topics.

Out of this experience came the idea to hold conferences specifically oriented toward a variety of contemporary topics related to libraries in the digital age – not only digital libraries. Consequently, the first LIDA conference was organized in 2000 drawing heavily from the legacy of these prior efforts. The purpose formulated then still holds today: “[T]o address the changing and challenging environment for libraries and information systems and services in the digital world.” While the purpose is constant, topics have changed every year. Directors for all the LIDA conferences have been Tatjana Aparac-Jelusic and Tefko Saracevic, while program chairs have changed every year depending on the topic chosen.

### Year of LIDA Themes:

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<th>Year of LIDA</th>
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Part II: Using Internet in libraries. |
| 2001         | Part I: The Internet: ethics and legal issues.  
Part II: Information services - practice and research. |
| 2002         | Part I: Integrating information seeking and information retrieval (IR).  
Part II: Information services in digital environments – practice and research. |
| 2003         | Part I: WWW and information retrieval.  
Part II: WWW and libraries. |
| 2004         | Part I: Human information behavior and digital libraries.  
Part II: Competences for digital libraries. |
Part II: Building a small digital library and digital library network. |
| 2006         | Part I: Cultural, social and institutional effects and place of digital libraries.  
Part II: Building a digital library for children and young adults. |
Part II: Economics and digital libraries. |
Part II: Reference in digital environments. |
| 2009         | Part I: Reflections: changes brought by and in digital libraries in the last decade.  
Part II: Heritage & digital libraries - digitization, preservation, access. |
| 2010         | Part I: Digital scholarship: Support by digital libraries  
Part II: Digital natives: Challenges & innovations in reaching out to digital born generations. |

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Tefko Saracevic is professor II emeritus at the School of Communication & Information, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and a past president of ASIS&T. He can be reached at tefkos<at>rutgers.edu.