DO YOU READ ME?
The International Association of School Librarianship
29th Annual Conference in Malmö, Sweden

SEATTLE, August 17, 2000—
Information Literacy – Key to the Future was the theme of the conference of International
Association of School Librarianship (IASL) held August 6-10, 2000 in Malmö, Sweden. Over
325 delegates from more than 30 countries attended the conference, which featured workshops,
seminars, school tours, receptions, exhibits, and the Fourth International Forum on Research in
School Librarianship. Delegates attended from around the world. Countries represented at the
conference included Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark,
Finland, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New
Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South
Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, the USA, and Zimbabwe. Helle Barrett (Sweden)
coordinated this year’s conference.

During the Opening General Session, Hans Persson, Director of Education for the city of Malmö,
stated “You can’t find anywhere a school with excellent quality and very good results without
having a school librarian with good standard and highly educated and professional staff.” Angeta
Eriksson, City Commissioner for Culture and Education, followed with “A complete society
must absolutely have libraries. They must be supported by government and local communities,
so they can make progress and always be in the frontline of information”. Anna-Lisa Fält, from
the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs stated that “School libraries are strategic in the
development of the Swedish school system and that school librarians are strategic persons in this
development”. Malin Koldenius, Chair of the Scholl Library Committee of the Swedish Library
Association concluded with “Do we read them? Are we quite sure of what they are saying? Are
we listening to them – to their wishes, abilities, ideas and needs for knowledge? Do we
understand? In my daily work….I will try to think of this – the other’s point of view”. The
Opening General Session also included the Brass Sextet of Limhamn and the annual IASL flag
ceremony.

Sessions in the Fourth International Forum on Research in School Librarianship included
presentations by Dianne Oberg (Canada) “Internet Use in Schools in Alberta, Canada: Implications for School Librarians”, Lucília Salgado (Portugal) “Literacy and Learning of
Reading and Writing”, James Herring (Scotland, UK) “Theory Into Practice: Using the PLUS
Model to Teach Information Skills and Support the Curriculum in a Secondary School”, Diljit
Singh (Malaysia) “Competencies for Teacher-Librarian: The Malaysian Perspective”, Ken
Haycock (Canada) “Internet Filtering in School Libraries”, and Eleanor Howe (USA) “The
Relationship Between Listening Comprehension and Reading Comprehension: Implications for
the School Librarian”. Linda Langford presented the work of Ross Todd (both Australia)
“Knowledge Management: Key to Partnerships, Learning Outcomes and Resourcing a Learning Community”.