

Peter Lor's library ABC, part 7: STU

S is for Smutsville. In the apartheid years Smutsville was the “coloured location” of [Sedgefield](#) (the town on the Garden Route of South Africa’s Western Cape Province where I live). Statutory apartheid has been abolished, but its legacy lives on in the form of poverty, unemployment, poor housing and services, TB, HIV/AIDS... This little library, not much wider than its entrance, shown here, is located in the Smutsville Community Centre and serves the people of Smutsville and the adjacent Sizamile. It is part of the [library service of Knysna Municipality](#), which has a larger branch in the centre of Sedgefield, and plans to provide larger premises in Smutsville. The librarians serve mainly children and are hoping to expand their services once the new library has been built. Note the mosaics: the product of one of the many job-creation and development projects of [Masithandane](#), a non-profit organization serving this community.



T is for Trivulziana. The [Biblioteca Trivulziana](#) is named after Prince Luigi Alberico Trivulzio, who assembled an impressive collection of manuscript codices and incunabula, and sold it to the city of Milan in 1935. (Click [here](#) for some examples.) I went there on a guided library visit during the 2009 IFLA Congress in Milan. Here our group was shown many treasures, including the [notebook of Leonardo da Vinci](#).



In the exhibition hall my attention wandered for a minute and through a window I spotted this couple engaged in something less esoteric but just as important.



U is for UNESCO. I know that UNESCO is not a library. It *has* a library, located in its headquarters building, depicted here, but the reason I include UNESCO in this ABC is that UNESCO has made an enormous contribution to libraries worldwide since its founding in 1945. UNESCO has been an important [partner](#) of IFLA, helping it to develop from an “old boys” club of middle-aged librarians to the dynamic international NGO that it is today. UNESCO has partnered with IFLA in promulgating various library manifestos and in supporting IFLA core programmes such as Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP). The 1953 Ibadan Seminar on public libraries had an enormous impact on thinking on library development in developing countries, although with hindsight this has not been without unintended consequences. (I’ll touch on these in my book, when it appears eventually...)

