IFLA Knowledge Management Section

Part of
Division IV

The growing interest in KM by the IFLA community was confirmed by the approval of Knowledge Management as IFLA Section in December 2003. The KM Section is a unit in IFLA's Division IV (Bibliographic Control).

With this growing interest in the implementation of Knowledge Management through out the library and information environment, LIS professionals have expressed a need for a deeper understanding of KM's many dimensions and its relevance to their work. The IFLA KM section endeavours to facilitate the application of KM in libraries by developing a program of activities that supports information professionals implement KM in their own organizations.

WORKING DEFINITION OF
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (KM)
KM is a process of creating, storing, sharing, applying and re-using organisational knowledge to enable an organisation to achieve its goals and objectives. KM is extending the concept of "knowledge" beyond existing concepts like "memory", "storage", and "information". The term covers such areas as tacit knowledge (expertise), implicit knowledge, explicit knowledge and procedural knowledge.

MISSION
KM encompasses many dimensions of organisational management and the activities of the Section are intended to reflect this by providing a broad platform of integrated activities, through working co-operatively with other IFLA sections and divisions, and appropriate professional organisations.

The objectives of the Section are to:
• support the implementation of KM culture in libraries and information environments
• provide an international platform for professional communication and understanding of the significance of KM for librarians and their institutions
• follow the developments in KM and promote its practical implementation within the IFLA community

To meet the demand of librarians to enhance their skills in an ever changing work environment, the Section seeks to provide theoretical and practical knowledge in areas of KM such as:
• knowledge sharing
• improved measures of performance
• being value-oriented rather than just service-oriented
• explore the "pros and Cons" of KM implementation

- utilize interactive communication in information settings to enhance knowledge sharing
- using IT for converting knowledge into information for use
- knowledge retention and preservation

ACTIVITIES

1.The KM Section aims to work collaboratively with other sections to develop sessions and programmes that focus on various aspects of KM and explore areas of mutual interest e.g., education and training; professional development; LIS theories and methodologies; intercultural communication; organisational development; IT and media.

2. To share "best practice" examples and case studies to make KM applicable to a wide range of information professionals in libraries and information centres, worldwide.

3. Investigate how professional associations influence and support the implementation of KM in libraries and information environments.

4. Maintaining a KM Section website as a repository of KM information, KM list-serve for communication and distribution of information relevant to section members and publishing a twice yearly newsletter.

ORGANIZATION

The Section is governed in accordance with the IFLA rules and procedures (http://www.ifla.org/V/pr/officershb.pdf).

The Standing Committee, elected in 2007 are: Judith J. Field (Chair), Agnes Hajdu Barat (Secretary), Jane Dysart (Information Officer),
Theo Bothma (Web Master), and Christel Mahnke (Newsletter Editor).

The KM discussion list is moderated by Karen Muller (kmdg-l@infoserv.inist.fr), and the Sections website (http://www.ifla.org/VII/s47/index.htm and http://www.ifla-km.org) are the main communication channels for the Section throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome everybody to contribute to the work of the KM Section and to support us with creative ideas and suggestions that will develop this subject area within LIS.

All new members need to submit an application form to the FLA Headquarters. Application forms and membership information are available on IFLANET at: http://www.ifla.org/III/members/index.htm or by request from IFLA HQ.

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Revised: September 2007

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