As 2013 winds down, it is important to review the work of the Africa Section in the last one year and make projections for the future.

In the year under review, key achievements, in line with IFLA Key Initiatives and Africa Section Strategic Plan (2012-2014) were made. Some of the highlights in 2013 include:

- The African Library Summit with the theme: “The Horizon and Beyond” was held at the University of South Africa (UNISA), Muckleneuk, South Africa from 2-5 July, 2013 with about 300 participants. The main outcome of the Summit was the launching of three new LIS Networks in Africa: African Public Library Network (APLN); Conference of African National Librarians (CANL); and African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA).
- The Namibia Library Symposium held 7-9 October in Windhoek, Namibia
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Africa Engagement Plan

These are a few of the many questions that we should strive to answer in 2014 and do better than we did in previous years. I am aware that many libraries are working in partnership with relevant agencies to deal with some of these issues. I have no doubt in my mind that we have what it takes: the will, the intellect and the ‘can do’ spirit of the African.

Colleagues, all hands must be on deck to make 2014 better than others! We have already started with right steps in the right direction but must move beyond the rhetoric! This is a wakeup call to action!!!

I look forward to working with you all more closely.

Happy New Year!

Victoria Okojie, PhD, FNLA, CLN
Chair, IFLA, Africa Section
Registrar/CEO, Librarians’ Registration Council of Nigeria
Associate, IFLA Leaders Programme
Advisor, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Program
The 2013 World Library and Information Congress attracted over 3,500 participants from 120 countries. The conference was organised into 224 Congress Sessions, 130 Poster sessions as well as numerous workshops, seminars, meetings and exhibitions. IFLA Africa Section held a number of side events which include:

- Africa Section Open Forum

Over 150 participants attended the Africa Section Open Forum with the theme “Future African Libraries: Innovation and Creativity” held during the Singapore conference. The Forum featured two paper presentations: Dr. Victoria Okojie, Registrar/CEO, LRCN and Mr. Dele Omotoso, Director, Professional Services, LRCN made a joint presentation on “Education and Training of Information Professionals: the Collaborative Role of the Librarians’ Registration Council of Nigeria”.

The second paper on “Collaborative Innovations: Making Libraries Relevant in Society” was jointly presented by Agbenyo, Stephen John, Executive Director, Savana Signatures and Aaron Kuwornu, Regional Director, Northern Region, Ghana Library Authority.

The papers generated interesting discussions. At the end of the Session, many librarians expressed interest in exploring the LRCN model to urge governments to establish and fund regulatory agencies in the Library and Information Sector as obtains in other professions.

- Standing Committee Meeting

Two meetings of IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee held on Sunday, 18th August and Wednesday, 21st August and were chaired by Dr. Victoria Okojie.
Having received all relevant reports, the Standing Committee discussed the IFLA Strategic Plan for 2013-2015. Key achievements by the Section also discussed were the successful hosting of the Africa Library Summit in Pretoria in July, 2013 and the Mid-Term meeting of the Section held in Abuja, Nigeria in February, 2013. Members at the meeting were encouraged to attend the IFLA WLIC 2015 which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa.

A Poster on “Emerging Initiatives in African Libraries” was presented by the Africa Section during the IFLA WLIC in Singapore. The aim of the Poster was to showcase the new innovations and initiatives in African libraries. Such as the African Library Summit (ALS); African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA); International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives (ICADLA); eIFL-PLIP projects and Arid Land Information Network. Over 300 participants visited the Stand in the course of the two days.

The IFLA Trend Report and IFLA Library were presented at the conference. The Trend Report identifies five high level trends shaping the information society as; new technologies; access to education; privacy; civic engagement and transformation. The Report urges libraries and librarians to re-position their services in order to maximise the impact of these trends.
The IFLA Library is a selection of resources to help librarians understand where libraries fit into a changing society.

The IFLA library pulls together IFLA’s digital resources in a convenient single online location for ease of accessibility, searching and browsing.

- **5 African Librarians at IFLA - ILP Face-to-Face Meeting**

Five librarians from Africa were among the twelve emerging global leaders selected as the first set of Associates for the IFLA International Leaders Programme (ILP) who met for the second time during the IFLA 2013 WLIC. The ILP is a two-year (2012-2014) programme designed to increase the cohort of leaders who can effectively represent the wider library sector in the international arena, and to develop leaders within IFLA. It was designed for people who have been identified as leaders in their own right. The inaugural meeting held in Helsinki, Finland in August, 2012.

During the course of the Programme, participants are expected to undertake a number of project tasks. The initial projects focussed on 5 main areas: Regional collaboration and advocacy; Libraries as agents of development; Copyright exceptions and limitations; Open Access and Access to digital content. The ILP Associates selected from Africa are:

- Dr. Victoria Okojie (Nigeria)
- Mrs. Kgomotso Radijeng (Botswana)
- Dr. Rosemary Shafack (Cameroon)
- Ms. Dina Youssef (Egypt)
- Dr. Sarah Kaddu (Uganda)

Two Counsellors were also appointed from Africa: Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan (Ghana) and Jacinta Were (Kenya).

For more details on ILP visit [http://www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

**NEWS Desk**

**Africa Section Develops 2-Year Strategic Plan**

The IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee developed a two-year Strategic Action Plan expected to serve as a Road Map for the Section from 2012 to 2014. The plan was ratified at the IFLA WLIC, 2013 and its implementation has since commenced.

**Meeting in progress**
The Plan highlights eight main Goals for the Section:

**Goal 1:** To promote and support the development of the profession in the region through the strengthening of Library Associations

**Goal 2:** To promote and support development programmes that focus on improved information use, reading and literacies in Africa

**Goal 3:** To promote the role of libraries in the Information Society

**Goal 4:** To drive access to content and digital resources for library users

**Goal 5:** To promote education and continuing professional development for the library and information profession in Africa

**Goal 6:** To promote documentation and preservation of indigenous knowledge and to advocate for moral rights, intellectual property and copyright for indigenous knowledge

**Goal 7:** To support the IFLA Presidential Theme

**Goal 8:** To advocate for improved access to information and knowledge for development in Africa

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### African Library Summit Births 3 Networks

Three Networks were launched during the African Library Summit held at the University of South Africa, Muckleneuk, Pretoria from 2-5 July, 2013.

The networks are: African Public Library Network (APLN) coordinated by Gertrude Mulindwa, National Librarian, National Library of Uganda; Conference of African National Librarians (CANL) coordinated by John Tsebe, National Librarian, National Library of South Africa; and the African Library and Information Association and Institutions (AfLIA) with Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan, University Librarian, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana as President.

Other members of AfLIA committee are Valentina Bannerman, Secretary; Shawky Salem, North African Representative; Jacinta Were, East Africa Representative; Alim Garga, Central Africa Representative; John Tsebe, Southern African representative while Cecile Coulibaly represents West Africa. Aissa Aisak represents Portuguese-speaking Africa. Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata and Dr. Victoria Okojie were co-opted into the Committee as Business Managers.

AfLIA was heralded in a beautiful, culturally appropriate “Harambee”; a Kenya ceremony to welcome new born babies where everybody with good wishes for the baby is encouraged to drop a token gift. African librarians at the Summit did this with style and panache.
The idea for AfLIA was muted during the Africa Library Summit in 2011 and the Interim Executive Committee was elected during the IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee Mid-Term meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria in February, 2013. AfLIA Secretariat headquarters is in Accra, Ghana.

The Advisory Group of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries (GL) Committee for Africa has finalized the strategy document that will position public libraries in Africa as lifelong partners to development of communities and the continent. The strategy document is known as Africa Engagement Plan (AEP).

The Group met in Kampala, Uganda from 16 – 17 October, 2013 to consider the recommendations of the draft AEP focusing on sub-strategies and activities to be prioritized; geographic strategy and approach and funding and partnership modalities.

Chair of IFLA Africa Section and Registrar/CEO, Librarians’ Registration Council of Nigeria, Dr Victoria Okojie who participated in the meeting said the AEP will be made public as soon as it is approved by the Board of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gates Global Library Africa Engagement Plan Ready

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The Gates GL Advisory Group first met in Windhoek, Namibia from 29 – 31 May, 2013 where the initial draft plan was developed.

The draft document provided four (4) key strategies for the development of public libraries on the continent. The strategies include: Research and Innovation; Training and Leadership; Impact, Advocacy and Policy; and Building the African Library Community of Practice.

The document also contains details of the impact the various strategies would deliver on the LIS sector in the continent. For example, the Research and Innovation strategy would result in support for some strategically positioned libraries to obtain the necessary digital platforms and ICT infrastructure to provide access to information for its user communities.

It would also include digitization of local history/oral tradition and culture; and other national treasures that are in print form only. Another expected outcome is establishing community/youth digital information centres; and establishing a research fund for libraries, among others.
Namibia Library Symposium Focuses on Building Strong Libraries

The Namibian Library Symposium held from 7 – 9 October, at the Safari Hotel and Conference Centre in Windhoek, Namibia. The Symposium was organized by the Namibia Library and Information Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Education; the Namibia Library and Archives Services (NLAS); libraries of the University of Namibia; Polytechnic of Namibia and the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management. The Symposium focused on the IFLA President’s theme (2013-2015): “Strong Libraries, Strong Societies”. LIS leaders in Africa were on hand to welcome the IFLA President to the continent and to engage with colleagues and policy-makers from across Africa and overseas to discuss how libraries can power development.

Section Chair participates in Beyond Access and ICTD Conferences in 2013

The Chair of IFLA, Africa Section, Dr Victoria Okojie participated in the 2013 edition of Beyond Access Africa Conference as well as the ICTD Conference held from 4 – 8 December, 2013 at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Beyond Access is a global movement of people and organizations that work to promote libraries as centres of economic and social change. The Movement believes that in health, youth, gender, economic development and countless other areas, libraries around the world help improve people's lives and strengthen their communities.

57 participants registered for the conference. Dr Okojie participated under Friends of Beyond Access category at the instance of the International Research and Exchange (IREX). Friends of Beyond Access are a special group of development
Africa Section Gets New Standing Committee Members

Four new Standing Committee Members have joined the Africa Section team. They are: Ujala Satgoor (South Africa), President, Library and Information Science Association of South Africa (LIASA); Rachel More (South Africa), Deputy National Librarian, National Library of South Africa; Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (South Africa), Chief Librarian, Monash University, South Africa and Bongiwe Magocha (Botswana), Head Library Services, Botswana Accountancy College, Botswana.

Chair of IFLA Africa Section, Dr Victoria Okojie welcomed the new members to the fold and charged them to deploy their wealth of experience in promoting LIS sector on the continent.

Dr Okojie equally commended the outgone Standing Committee members whose tenure of office ended in 2013. They are: Ms. Naomi Haasbroek (South Africa); Dr. James Daniel (Nigeria); Ayanda Lebele (Botswana); Shawky Salem (Egypt); and Margaret Tarpley (Nigeria).

French Language Director Retires

The Director of IFLA French Language Centre for Africa, Marietou Dioungue Diop has retired, having completed the second term of office. While in office, Diop served in the Standing Committees of IFLA Children Libraries, Classification and Indexing; Reading and also member of jury of IFLA International Marketing Award.

In a mail announcing the retirement, Diop also pledged commitment towards facilitating a smooth transition to her successor, Papa Arona Ndiaye as well as willingness to share experiences with younger French speaking librarians.

Announcing 2013 Elsevier Foundation Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries Grantees

The Elsevier Foundation Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries grants announced on Dec 9th 2013

"The Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries Program Awards Grants to libraries” for innovation in improving access and use of scientific, technical and medical information. The 2013 library grant recipients address real developing world issues through the use of STM information resources for:
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<td><strong>ABADCAM at Yaounde Book Fair</strong></td>
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Cameroon Library Association (ABADAM) together with more than 60 Institutions (Editors, Libraries, e.t.c) took part in the 1st edition of YAOUNDE BOOK FAIR from 5-7 December 2013. The theme of the Fair was: 'BOOK, Instrument of peace and development.' The Ministry of Art and Culture accompanied by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Buea participated in the opening Ceremony.

ABADCAM stand was handled by the President of the Association in collaboration with a team composed mainly of two young members namely: Mrs. YENGONG NCHANJI Yvonne (Emerging Leader African Library Summit Pretoria 2013) and Mr. FOSSO Arnold Noël (1st Position 2011 batch, Cameroon Library School).

Read more in ElsevierConnect: Elsevier Foundation awards $700K in grants to innovative libraries and women in science


**BOTSWANA Library Association Briefs Stakeholders**

On 11 December, 2013, the Botswana Library Association (BLA) met with the stakeholders of the library and information science sector in the Country. The meeting which took place in Gaborone, Botswana had the representatives of the Reader's Association; Writer's Associations; Office of Botswana Vision 2016; Publishers Association; University of Botswana Department of Library and Information Services; University of Botswana Library Services and The Botswana Library Consortium in attendance. Stakeholders were invited at the meeting to be given an update of the BLA performance in recent times. The meeting also provided the Association the opportunity to receive input from stakeholders on how to improve the BLA services and on the preparation for the BLA annual review meeting which also held in December 2013.

GHANA Holds Library Week
The Ghana Library Association held the first Library and Information Week in all the ten (10) regional capitals across the Country under the theme: “INFORMATION LITERACY AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES”. The selection of the theme was to drive home the point that information literacy starts with the ability to read and write. The purpose of the celebration was to raise the profile of libraries, particularly the public library and information service professionals and to give libraries and information services the opportunity to showcase their resources, facilities and services through different programs to the community and to organize reading clinics.

The Association with the active support of the Ghana Library Authority, the Ghana Book Development Council and some book publishers namely, Adwinsa Publishers, Afram Publications and Unimax Publishers made the week’s celebration a success. Before the week’s celebration, the Association organized a one day Trainer of Trainers workshop for librarians on how to organize effective Reading Clinics. Each of the 10 regions had 2 representatives for the training and at the end were presented with assorted reading materials donated by publishers for the library and information week in their respective regions.

The celebration started on the 7th October 2013 with a national launch in Accra. Regional launches were done simultaneously with a common message read by President of the Ghana Library Association, Dr. Perpetua Dadzie and Association’s Regional Representatives. The second day was devoted to Television and Radio Talk shows across the regions by members of the Association. The third, fourth and fifth days were for the Reading Clinics. The aim of the reading clinics was to help pupils improve their reading skills and to help them enjoy reading for fun.

The celebration started on the 7th October 2013 with a national launch in Accra. Regional launches were done simultaneously with a common message read by President of the Ghana Library Association, Dr. Perpetua Dadzie and Association’s Regional Representatives. The second day was devoted to Television and Radio Talk shows across the regions by members of the Association. The third, fourth and fifth days were for the Reading Clinics. The aim of the reading clinics was to help pupils improve their reading skills and to help them enjoy reading for fun.

Nigerian Library Association (NLA)
NLA Signs MOU with Polish Library Association
The Nigeria Library Association has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Polish Library Association for capacity building of librarians in the two associations. The MOU involves sponsorship by Ambassador (Dr) Sam Jimba (the first Librarian to be appointed an Ambassador in Nigeria) of one young Nigerian librarian to visit Poland and for a Polish librarian to participate in the national conference of the NLA. The first set of beneficiaries of this collaboration was Mr. Abraham Etebu from Nigeria and Ms. Ewa Kobierska-Maciuszko from Poland.
Qatar Hosts IFLA First Regional Conference

IFLA held its first Regional Conference in the Arab Region in cooperation with the Arab Federation of Library Associations and Information (AFLI) and the Qatar Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage (Public Libraries Department) on the role of National libraries and Associations in supporting free access to information according to copyright laws. Participants were National Library Association Presidents and Directors of National Libraries from all over the Arab Region. The Director, IFLA Centre for Arabic Speaking Libraries, Dina Youssef said the main aim of the gathering was to introduce and raise awareness on the role of libraries and library associations in advocating the issue of copyright limitations for libraries and archives. The keynote speaker at the conference was Dr Winston Tabb, Chair, IFLA Delegation to WIPO and Dean of University libraries, Archives and Museums, John Hopkins.

UNISA Library hosts UNZALISA team

The University of South Africa (UNISA) Library hosted a delegation from the University of Zambia Library and Information Studies Association (UNZALISA) from 3 to 6 December 2013. The objectives of UNZALISA’s study tour included efforts to expose their students to a broader understanding of the role of a librarian beyond arranging books in shelves – but a realisation that librarians are at the centre of information provision, preservation, and technology. “We also want to help students create networks and links with librarians at an international level for future collaboration,” said Raymond Sikanyika, tour organiser and librarian at Copperbelt University.

"An opportunity to share information and ideas on the continent is always exciting," said Unisa Library Services Executive Director, Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata as she welcomed the guests.

“What does a good library look like on the African continent?” asked M bambo –Thata. In her presentation, she focused on efforts at the UNISA Library such as the AirPAC technology – which reduces the library website/catalogue to fit on a mobile device, therefore not limiting the student’s access (journal articles and other e-resources) to a traditional PC; College Teams – various teams of specialists who include personal librarians, collection developers and search librarians to focus on specialised students’ needs in specific UNISA colleges; and mobile libraries – buses equipped with books and technologies to service students who do not have a ‘walk in branch’ at reach. She highlighted the importance of understanding how an ODL library works – reaching students with as much resources without them having the need to physically walk into a branch.

The delegation also visited UNISA Library associates and partners such as the National History Museum, the National Library of South Africa, the Tshwane Public Library and SABINET, in order to gain further understanding of the various information fields. Sikanyika said that the trip was important for them “to promote the librarian’s profession by exposing students to international librarians in the region, because it is currently a profession looked down upon.”
Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) programme: Africa Regional Convening in 2014

IFLA’s successful Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) programme will be expanded through a series of convening and projects at the regional level in Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean from 2014. The BSLA programme consists of a training package and case studies on library association development; mentoring and advice on forming partnerships; an online platform for interactive learning and materials; and impact assessment. Between 2010 and 2012 IFLA delivered the BSLA programme in 6 countries (Botswana, Cameroon, Lebanon, Lithuania, Peru, Ukraine) and BSLA-related activities that reached a further 30 countries across the world. A report on the impact of the programme was published in 2012 and can be downloaded from: http://www.ifla.org/BSLA/impact

Over the next three years until 2016, IFLA will build on the success of the programme and deliver convening at the regional level where participants will be encouraged to think strategically about needs across the region, and in their own countries.

BSLA Africa Convening: Kumasi, Ghana, February 2014

The African Library and Information Association, Ghana Library Association and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi will host the Africa convening from 11-14 February 2014 in Kumasi, Ghana. The convening follows the IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee’s Mid-Term meeting from 7-10 February, 2014. Over 35 participants are expected to attend the BSLA workshop.

eIFL Official Visits Nigeria, Ethiopia in 2014

Nigeria will play host to Monika Elbert, Senior Policy Advisor, eIFL in March, 2014. Monika will also visit Ethiopia by May 2014. Working in collaboration with libraries in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, EIFL enables access to knowledge for education, learning, research and sustainable community development. EIFL is an international not-for-profit organisation based in Europe with a global network of partners.

eIFL Announces New Grant for 2014

eIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme has launched a new grant: Innovative libraries preparing children and youth for the future.

The call is open to public and community libraries in developing and transition countries. It aims to spark development of innovative library projects that use technology in new and creative ways to serve the needs of children and youth.

Applicants may submit proposals for up to US$20,000.

The application deadline is January 31, 2014.

Full information about the grant, application guidelines and an application form can be obtained by visiting: http://www.eifl.net/call-proposals

2014 IFLA WLIC Conference

IFLA World Library and Information Congress and the 80th IFLA General Conference and Assembly will hold from 16-22 August 2014 in Lyon, France. The theme of the conference is “Libraries, Citizens, and Societies: Confluence for Knowledge”.

Nigerian Library Association (NLA) Conference, 2014

The next national conference of the NLA is scheduled to hold from 22-27 June, 2014 in Enugu, Nigeria.
Malawi Hosts 2014 SCECSAL Conference

The 2014 Standing Committee of Eastern, Central and Southern African Libraries (SCECSAL) conference will take place in Malawi from 27 July to 2 August, 2014.

Zimbabwe Library Association, 2014 Conference

The Zimbabwe Library Association holds its 48th Conference/AGM from 24-27 June, 2014 at Victoria Falls. The Theme of the conference is “Working Smarter and Adding Value: Library Services in a New Paradigm”

Application for World Book Capital

The Selection Committee for the World Book Capital is calling for nominations for the World Book Capital 2016. Each year, UNESCO and the international organizations representing the three major sectors of the book industry—the International Publishers Association (IPA), International Booksellers Federation (IBF) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)—select the World Book Capital for a one-year period, effective 23 April each year.

This initiative, in addition to the celebration of World Book and Copyright Day, represents a collaborative undertaking by key stakeholders in the publishing world and cities to promote books and literacy.

Details can be obtained from:

*2016 call for applications [English - PDF]

*2016 appel a candidatures [français - PDF]

Complete applications including a cover or support letter from the Mayor of the candidate-city and drafted in one of UNESCO Secretariat’s working languages (English or French), should reach UNESCO no later than Friday 25 April 2014. No application received after this date will be taken into consideration.

Current & upcoming World Book Capitals are: Bangkok (Thailand) in 2013, Port Harcourt (Nigeria) in 2014 Incheon (Republic of Korea) in 2015.

CALL FOR PAPERS
1ST CARLIGH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
14-18 July 2014
CSIR INSTI CONFERENCE ROOM
Accra, Ghana

1. Introduction
The Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries Ghana (CARLIGH) is pleased to announce that the 1st International Conference of the Consortium will be held in Accra, Ghana from 14-18 July 2014 as part of its 10th Anniversary celebrations.

2. Theme and Sub-Themes
The theme for the Conference is: “Innovation for access to information”.

The sub-themes for the Conference are:

a. Library integration and resource sharing
b. Technology driven information services – E-resources, Institutional Repository, Open Access
c. The 21st Century Librarian – satisfying the needs of varied users
d. Social media in libraries and information service delivery
e. Impact of social media on socio-economic development
f. Innovative library marketing and collaboration

3. Registration
The Governing Board of CARLIGH wishes to invite both local and foreign participants to register for the conference. Please send the following personal information: Name, Institution of Work, Designation, Country of Origin, Contact Address, Telephone and Email:
3.1 Registration fees
Local participants GH¢300
Foreign participants $250

The registration fee covers, snacks, lunches, a dinner and conference materials. The deadline for registration is 15th February, 2014. Registration is open to both those who want to present papers and other participants. Further information would be provided on how to pay the registration fees.

3.2 Accommodation
Information about accommodation would be provided in due course. The planning committee is still negotiating for conference rates.

4. Submission of Abstracts
The Consortium invites the submission of abstracts to be considered for papers to be presented at CARLIGH 2014. Abstract must be presented in bold; Arial 12, and a maximum of 150 words.

All abstracts and papers should be sent to the following addresses:

a. Dr. Mrs. Helena Asamoah-Hassan, University Librarian, K N U S T , K u m a s i . E m a i l : maadwoa2000@yahoo.com
b. Alhaji Ibrahim Kwabena Antwi, University Librarian U D S , T a m a l e . E m a i l : ikantwi1993@yahoo.com

Deadline for Abstracts: 31st January 2014
Authors whose abstracts will be accepted will be notified by 15th February 2014

5. Submission of Full Papers
The final document is to be submitted by 31st March 2014 in MS Word format. Submissions received after 31st March 2014 will automatically be dropped from the programme.

6. Conclusion
The 1st International Conference of CARLIGH promises to be a melting point of great minds in the global knowledge economy. It is expected that a cross section of the society interested in information as the driver of emerging economies will attend.

As the United Nations reflects on the future of global development and the post-2015 agenda, access to information must be recognised as critical to supporting governments to achieve development goals, and enabling citizens to make informed decisions to improve their own lives. IFLA believes that high-quality library and information services help guarantee that access.

Through UN agency sessions, the WSIS+10 review process, and Member State consultations, IFLA is engaged with its members, civil society and the development community to advocate for access to information to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. IFLA ALP is leading this work in consultation with other IFLA units and national representatives.

The post-2015 framework will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and set the agenda for development for at least the next decade. The responsibility to reduce poverty, exclusion and inequality, build accountable public institutions, and achieve sustainability will be shared by all countries.

As all libraries actively support development, all libraries have a stake in the agenda.

Libraries and access to information:
- Enable governments and civil society to achieve development goals: Libraries are transparent, accountable institutions that support government programmes and provide services that help government, civil society and business to better understand citizens’ information needs;
- Support citizens to make informed
informed decisions: Libraries provide equitable access to information, and expert guidance to effectively use the world’s knowledge. Librarians contribute to the reduction of poverty, exclusion and inequality by helping citizens develop skills to effectively seek, access, and use information in all forms.

**Every library and librarian supports development**

IFLA encourages all library associations, institutions and librarians to demonstrate the contribution that access to information and libraries make to achieving development as outlined in the IFLA Statement on Libraries and Development [http://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-statement-on-libraries-and-development](http://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-statement-on-libraries-and-development) by:

- Advocating for, and delivering, library and information services relevant to a library’s local environment that help citizens to be educated, informed and included;
- Monitoring and contributing to the post-2015 agenda utilising briefings and support materials to be provided by IFLA;
- Supporting national and local frameworks that achieve development goals and help governments to understand citizens’ information needs.

IFLA thanks you for your support in 2013 and wishes you a successful 2014