

## Honorary Fellow Citation for

*Donna Scheeder*



An innate ability to connect with people coupled with drive and energy have marked Donna Scheeder as a professional force in the library field. She has employed her gifts as a natural leader, strategic thinker, organizational expert, and articulate spokesperson to lead the transformation of IFLA.

Donna's first encounter with IFLA began when she became the first leader from the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service to engage with IFLA's Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section. As a member of the Section she helped to organise satellite meetings and advocate for the increased involvement of special libraries in the fabric of IFLA. As a past president of the Special Libraries Association in the United States, Donna understood the challenges for, and impact of, this sector of the library profession.

Donna was involved in a number of IFLA Governing Board advisory groups formed in the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to examine IFLA's governance and move the federation to one that engaged more with members and was transparent in its programmatic and organizational development. She served on the IFLA Governing Board from 2009-2017, continuing to influence IFLA's development. Donna played an active role in IFLA's advocacy around the agreement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, successfully helping to achieve the significant decision to include access to information as a target under Sustainable Development Goal 16. This accomplishment provided a globally accepted springboard and the common language for IFLA and libraries around the world to advocate to stakeholders and governments to support the role of libraries in society.

As President of IFLA, 'A Call to Action' was her presidential theme, and she travelled the globe encouraging libraries to act, to speak up and to ensure the voice of libraries were heard and their views considered. Always clear and forthright in expressing her own views, Donna has been very open to the ideas and experiences of others, a valuable and critical trait in an organisation comprising members from many cultures. During her tenure, IFLA's International Advocacy Program helped library associations and library communities become more powerful advocates and the first *Development and Access to Information Report* became a key resource for advocacy efforts. Donna's focus has been on the need to act, change and adapt to an evolving world. As President, she led the discussions of IFLA's future directions which culminated in the finalization of the substantial Legacy Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

IFLA's transformation and willingness to evolve is a result of Donna Scheeder's influence on strategic decisions taken during her time on the Governing Board. IFLA and the international library field is fortunate to have benefited from her leadership, one full of energy, passion and contagious enthusiasm. Donna Scheeder's impact on libraries around the world and on IFLA as an organisation qualify her as a worthy recipient of IFLA's highest honour of Honorary Fellow.