# Action plan 2019 – 2020

**Name of Professional Unit:** Library History Special Interest Group

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Focus Area 1</th>
<th>Library History: stories that inspire and enhance professional practice.</th>
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## IFLA Strategic Direction

**Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and enhance professional practice.** Libraries around the world have a special and often proud history and sharing their stories can only inspire, enhance and confirm the library professions commitment to their library/ies. Even tales of error and poor practice can enhance professional practice.

### Key Initiatives

| 2.1 | Produce, communicate and distribute key resources and materials that inspire the profession [Describe how your planned activities align with this Key Initiative] – see below |
| 2.2 | Deliver high quality campaigns, information and other communications products on a regular basis to engage and energise librarians – see below |

### Funding Needed

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<tr>
<th>Projects/Activities</th>
<th>Focus area</th>
<th>Tasks &amp; Responsibility</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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| ☐ Assess and develop oral histories from librarians around the world: what has been done, what is being done; what needs to be done | 1. | 1. SIG to establish what librarian oral histories currently exist and to publicise this information;  
   a. SIG to hold an introductory session at IFLA 2020 Dublin to assist with the planning.  
   b. SIG to work out next steps in working with | Ongoing |
|   | In preparation for the IFLA Centenary in 2027, assess and develop oral histories of IFLA Presidents and Secretaries General |   | 1. IFLA member Jeanne Drew has started this project and is liaising with IFLA to interview past IFLA Presidents;  
   a. Liaise with Jeanne to assist with interviews of IFLA Presidents around the world;  
   b. Liaise with IFLA web master to ensure storage | Ongoing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | colleagues around the world on capturing oral histories from “missing” regions and develop project/s for this.  
   c. Work out the best way to store oral histories as they are captured.  
   d. Arrange translations into IFLA language/s as required. |   |   |   |
1. Assess and develop oral histories of library educators past and present: what has been done, what is being done; what needs to be done

2. Expand the project to include past IFLA Secretaries General

   - c. Develop a funding proposal with IFLA to enable capture of these histories

1. See if the Section of Education & Training is interesting in collaborating;
   - a. SIG to work out next steps in working with colleagues around the world on capturing oral histories from “missing” regions and develop project/s for this.
   - b. Work out the best way to store oral histories as they are captured.

   Ongoing
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<th>Encourage the celebration of libraries and their history</th>
<th>1. Continue with the SIG’s work and engagement on celebrating library history through conference sessions, posts to IFLA Library History e-list and other forums.</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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<td>c.</td>
<td>Arrange translations into IFLA language/s as required.</td>
<td>a. Arrange historical library visits at IFLA conferences, starting with the IFLA 2020 Dublin</td>
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**How will you communicate your activities and results?**

Through conference sessions, developing an oral history of librarians, perhaps a possible book, IFLA project/s; through interactive and accessible media to all audiences. Might be we could take advantage of Digital Humanities capabilities and have a website using storytelling maps, GIS, etc. Its success could be measured by how many visitors the site had and/or how many new oral history project are added to the site.

**How will you measure the impact of your activities?**

- By attendance at IFLA conference sessions organised by the SIG on library history issues and what can be learnt from them;
- By interest and engagement of the profession around the world as the oral history project develops;
- By success in gaining funding for the oral history project/s when such is required;
- By working with other IFLA groups with an interest in historical components of their work as it pertains to library history

**Identify other Unit(s) which may be interested in this Focus Area, or with which you could collaborate on projects/activities.**

It is also possible that Library Services to People with Special Needs Section [https://www.ifla.org/lsn](https://www.ifla.org/lsn) may be interested in learning from the past to contribute to the future and something may come of this.

Liaise with the Section on Education and Training regarding the proposed oral histories of library educators.

**Project Funding Request 2019 – 2020 – NIL required for the forthcoming year**

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