



Library Theory and Research STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2014 [Revised 11-28-2012]

Mission

The IFLA Section on Library Theory & Research exists to:

provide a research-based framework to IFLA's professional priorities through a program promoting theoretical and empirical library and information science research and analysis; provide and encourage international networking opportunities for library professionals engaged in library and information science research.

(Professional priorities: Supporting the role of libraries in society; Developing library professionals; Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices)

(IFLA Strategic Direction: Representing the interests of IFLA's members and their users throughout the world. IFLA exists through and for its members and their users and acts as the global voice of libraries and library associations.)

Goals

1. 1 Stimulate a high degree of membership participation and engagement through encouraging the sharing of practice-based and theoretical research methodologies in LIS.

Actions

1.1 Encourage theoretically as well as empirically based papers at IFLA and IFLA sponsored conferences.

1.1.1 Helsinki 2012:

Congress Theme: "**Libraries Now! Inspiring, Surprising, Empowering**"

2012 LTR Program: *International and comparative librarianship: toward valid, relevant and authentic research and education.* The session was arranged in cooperation with Education and Training and LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group.

The central question of the session was: "How can we do better research in ICL and what can research in ICL teach us that we can use in library development and advocacy in our own and in other countries?"

1.1.2: Singapore 2013

Congress Theme: "**Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities**"

2013 LTR Satellite Meeting: Support for International Scholarship, August 14th and 15th, 2013
The meeting will focus on the ways of conducting library research aimed at developing a better understanding of research habits amidst an increasingly global scholarly landscape.

2013 LTR Program - planning a session *Diversity in libraries: theoretical approaches and practical experimentation* with an emphasis on a broad understanding of diversity, including sociological, philosophical, historical, and educational perspectives. The session will be organized in cooperation with the Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE).

1.1.3: Lyon 2014

Planning will take place in August, 2013.

2. Assisting in the development of expertise and knowledge in useful research methods whilst developing, maintaining and adhering to the highest professional standards that support high quality practices.

Actions

- 2.1 Evaluate conference papers for possible inclusion in IFLA and other journals.
- 2.2 Encourage strategic use of research, innovative approaches to research, and evidence-based research

3. Facilitating transnational networks of common, credible research interests

Actions

- 3.1 Share LTR communications via the internet
 - 3.1.1 Use social media, including Twitter, to distribute information about LTR activities and facilitate discussion between the section members
 - 3.1.2 Publish the LTR Newsletter in conjunction with a LTR Blog
 - 3.1.3 Encourage attendance at LTR Standing Committee meetings and LTR sponsored programs through email contact with LTR section members.
 - 3.1.4 Promote membership to LTR by developing a membership recruitment brochure
 - 3.1.5 Target professional groups (e.g. library schools and Library and Information Science research organizations) to become active in the Section
 - Encourage broad international representation on LTR Standing Committee
 - Update the Section leaflet for distribution to targeted groups
- 3.2 Support the connections between the IFLA's key initiatives on Digital Content Program (KI 1), Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession (KI 3), and Multilingual Programme (KI 5) to advance training and professional development in digital librarianship and to encourage research and theory development in the area of multilingual access to digital content
 - 3.2.1 Encourage sharing of information about best practices, guidelines, and standards in creating digital content among the members of the international community
 - 3.2.2 Encourage collaborative research projects on multilingual access to digital content
 - 3.2.3 Promote research on the role of the library internationally at a satellite event in 2013 on Researching the Library's Role in the global knowledge environment. (See: <http://publish.illinois.edu/global-knowledge/> for details)

4. Serving as sponsor section for Library History Special Interest Group Actions

4.1 Endorse mission statement of Library History SIG, which is the means within IFLA by which professionals specializing in all fields of librarianship can be made aware of the importance of an understanding of the past and of the profession's theoretical foundations to the successful provision of library services in the present and future. In particular, the SIG concentrates on universal and broad themes of library history, regional or international or local experience of general significance.

4.2 Library History SIG session in Singapore on "Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspectives on Libraries, Readers, and Book Culture in Asia."

Library History SIG Convener:

Steve Witt

Head, International and Area Studies Library

Associate Professor, Library

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Phone: 1- [217.265.7518](tel:217.265.7518)

Email: switt@illinois.edu

NOTE: LTR Strategic Plan 2012-14 considers the IFLA five key initiatives and Strategic Activities, including KI 1: Digital Content Programme, KI 2: IFLA International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme, KI 3: Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession, KI 4: Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme, KI 5: Multilingualism Programme. The point 3.2 of the strategic plan addresses specifically the connections between the key initiatives that pertain to the mission of the LTR Section.