

The Tunis Declaration on libraries, reading and intergenerational dialogue:

A strategy for building social cohesion

We, the Tunisian Federation of the Associations of the Friends of Books and Libraries (FENAABIL) and The Literacy and Reading Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), meeting at the International Symposium on „Reading as a link between generations: Towards a more interdependent society“ in Hammamet, Tunisia, 21st-23rd September 2011,

declare the following:

- Whereas libraries play an essential role in creation of lifelong readers, and
- Whereas libraries offer free access to all citizens and are committed to the social inclusion of all; and
- Whereas libraries are essential for a democratic society, and
- Whereas the importance of libraries is growing in the information age; and
- Whereas libraries provide a space for intergenerational dialogue, solidarity, experiences and programs, and
- Whereas libraries enrich the cultural life of communities; and
- Whereas learning is a lifelong activity facilitated by reading and access to information; and
- Whereas FENAABIL and IFLA are committed to respect for diversity, intellectual freedom, free access to information and knowledge, the promotion of literacy and reading for all;

Therefore we resolve:

- That libraries take advantage of their rich infrastructure to develop intergenerational programs as organized interactions of young and older age groups for the promotion of reading, mutual understanding and care for the benefit of both; and
- That libraries create opportunities and spaces for intergenerational dialogue and learning; and
- That libraries develop services that promote connections between different age groups such as:

- Reading activities for babies, children and young people provided by older adults;
 - Story telling by older adults to pass on culture and tradition;
 - Homework help provided to children by teenagers and adults of all ages;
 - Training in information technology by young people to older people in order to bridge the gap between the „text“ and the „techno“ generations.
- That libraries work actively to reduce age segregation and isolation and build cohesive society through intergenerational services and programs.

Tunisia, Hammamet, September 23, 2011