



Strategic Plan of the Literacy and Reading Section, 2008-2009

Updates: September, 2008

Mission

The Mission of the Literacy and Reading Section is to assist IFLA in effectively fulfilling one of its key professional and strategic priorities: promoting literacy, reading, and lifelong learning. This priority is comprehensive in its understanding of literacy, from basic literacy to information literacy, and its comprehension of reading and of lifelong learning. (See the description of this priority)

As literacy is the foundation of the work of all division and sections, the Literacy and Reading Section welcomes the opportunity to work cooperatively, both within IFLA and beyond. It is pleased to act in an advisory and resource capacity to any group wishing to know more about the role of libraries in literacy and reading promotion programmes.

GOALS:

1. Help libraries worldwide develop projects and programmes that encourage and support literacy, reading, and lifelong learning.

Actions

1.1 To distribute, demonstrate and promote the use of the brochure "Library-Based Literacy Programs: Some Practical Suggestions"; to promote its translation into all of IFLA's official languages and as many national languages, as possible; to make the translations accessible on the web; and, where possible, to support the printing of those in IFLA languages.

1.2 To mark the UNESCO Decade of Literacy (2003-2012) and to promote the contribution and recognition of libraries in research and in the development and practice of literacy, information literacy and lifelong learning, taking into account the diversity of cultures, languages and economic and social circumstances, and supporting the theme "Libraries for Lifelong Literacy".

1.3 To assist IFLA in the concrete implementation of the formal Partnership Agreement with the International Reading Association (IRA) and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

1.4 To serve, through the Section's web page and with links to and with other websites, as a resource and advocate for information about literacy and reading promotion projects/programmes and events worldwide.

2. Through meetings, discussion, research, publications, and widespread dissemination of information on IFLANET, encourage a better understanding of reading, literacy, and book culture in specific cultural milieus.

Actions

2.1 To work on the Publication of International Best Practices in Reading Promotion Activities as a Section's project in order to identify, gather, share and showcase examples of best practice in reading promotion activities for all the geographic areas and major age groups: babies; pre-schoolers; primary, middle and senior school groups; adults; special groups (print-disabled, multilingual, disadvantaged, in special care); to provide an accessible and useful tool (or series of tools) of best practice in order to increase our common knowledge and expand our learning, training and practice of literacy and reading promotion activities; and to document and provide evidence of the role of libraries in literacy and reading promotion activities throughout the world

2.2 To identify and encourage the sharing of research and best practices in the sponsoring of appropriate literacy and reading events and celebrations, in cooperation with other national and international cultural, literacy, and reading organizations (e.g., marking International Literacy Day (8 September) in cooperation with the International Reading Association and its national associations and the International Literacy Network; marking World Book and Copyright Day (23 April) in cooperation with UNESCO and its national commissions; and to honour specific achievements in the worlds of literacy and reading development in cooperation with the International Book Committee, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and other groups, such as the International Reading Association and its national/regional associations).

2.3 To plan and realise a joint Session at the 2009 IFLA conference in Milan, Italy in cooperation with the Information Literacy Section, on the theme of 'Libraries promoting twenty-first century literacies'. It promotes a new format of programme as an open, interactive, and participatory space that reflects innovation to face the global challenges in twenty-first century literacy issues.

2.4 To plan and organise Satellite meeting, The Pre-conference in Rome 2009 in cooperation with the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section on the theme "Raising a Nation of Readers: Libraries as partners in national Reading Projects and Programmes". It challenges a management strategies and partnership in organising reading campaigns.

2.5 To explore opportunities for the Literacy and Reading Section's participation in the IFLA Congress in Goteborg 2010.

2.6 To encourage the participation of members of IRA and IBBY and publishers and literacy agencies in the South African conferences through communication, promotion and contributions to planning the events.

2.7 To promote, in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Russian libraries and the British Council, their reading promotion "handbook" that illustrates and describes good ideas for promoting reading from around the world.

3. Monitor, promote, and disseminate research and research results about reading, readers, reading promotion, literacy, and library services to readers.

Actions

3.1 Building on the Section's 2001-2002 survey of reader-centred services in public libraries, support extending the research and research methodology to Latin American libraries, in cooperation with the Latin American Section.

3.2 To continue and strengthen the "Reports on Current Research in Reading and Literacy" column in the Section on Reading Newsletter.

3.3 To ensure that the papers presented at the Conferences in Quebec and Milan are available on web and to encourage the publication of the papers as widely as possible in relevant journals and newsletters.

3.4 To continue the development and implementation of a joint research project with the International Reading Association (IRA) on the hallmarks of a literate environment to support the learning and practice of literacy and the love of reading and writing.

3.5 To explore opportunities for joint training and cooperative projects among members of IRA, IBBY and other relevant organizations and partners.

4. Increase membership on the Standing Committee and in the Section on Literacy Reading.

Actions

4.1 To update and publish the Section's membership bookmark and the Section's leaflet on Section's web page in as many IFLA languages as possible, and, where resources allow, to make print copies available to target members.

4.2 To increase the Section's visibility by cooperating actively with organizations outside IFLA, such as the International Reading Association and the International Board of Books for Children (IBBY) and with IFLA units which have similar interests.

4.3 To publicize the Section's activities and achievements systematically and to encourage more IFLA institutional members to join the Section on Literacy and Reading.

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