



National Libraries Section

Strategic Plan 2011-2012

Mission

The IFLA National Libraries Section is a focal point for supporting the vital role of national libraries in society as custodians of the worlds' intellectual heritage, providing organisation, preservation of and access to the national imprint in all its forms.

The Section aims to provide leadership in the areas of concern to national libraries, always in recognition of the needs and views of every region of the world and in recognition of IFLA's vision as the trusted global voice of the library and information community, driving equitable access to information and knowledge for all.

The Section supports and promotes IFLA's core values to its members:

- The principle of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The belief that people, communities and organisations need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being
- The conviction that delivery of high quality library and information services helps to guarantee that access
- The commitment to enable all members of the Federation to engage in, and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, disability, ethnic origin, gender, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race or religion.

The Section's aims and activities underpin IFLA's four key strategies:

- Empowering libraries to enable their user communities to have equitable access to information
- Building the strategic capacity of IFLA and that of its members
- Transforming the profile and standing of the profession
- Representing the interests of IFLA's members and their users throughout the world

In pursuing its goals, the Section will support and promote the President's theme, *Libraries – A force to change*.

A related but independent association is the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) which was established to discuss policies and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest to national libraries worldwide. The Section works in close collaboration with CDNL.

Strategic directions

Empowering libraries to enable their user communities to have equitable access to information

Aim: To promote the universal availability of information by such activities as encouraging the creation and building of national libraries, the development of national legislation for national libraries - especially legal deposit dispositions and preservation activities - and to promote the principle of open access to information for all citizens.

Actions

1.1 Hold open Standing Committee meetings at IFLA conferences to promote the exchange of information, discussion of issues and collaboration between national libraries.

1.2 Collaborate with other Sections on conference sessions to promote shared goals as appropriate.

1.3 Collaborate with other Sections on projects to achieve shared goals as appropriate.

1.4 Work with colleagues in Division 1 to achieve common goals, in particular open access to information.

1.5 Support and cooperate with the National Organisations and International Relations Special Interest Group.

1.6 Support the cooperation with the National Information and Library Policy Special Interest Group.

1.7 Support IFLA's Key Initiative 1 – Digital Content Programme by providing input and comments for the following statements:

- *the IFLA Statement on Legal Deposit* outlining benefits of and considerations for print and electronic legal deposit whether in a mandatory or voluntary system of legal deposit;

- *the IFLA Statement on Orphan Works* encompassing issues to be considered in promoting the public interest in access to such works while protecting owner's rights and countering the risk of infringement.

Building the strategic capacity of IFLA and that of its members

Aim: To serve as a forum to share and learn from the experience of the practical problems of national libraries, in order to promote benchmarking, best practices and quality models, and to improve management skills.

Actions

2.1 Support the work of the Cataloguing Section in promoting the new RDA cataloguing standard (Resource Description and Access)

2.2 Support the work of the Bibliography Section in promoting national bibliography and in particular the National Bibliography Register

Transforming the profile and standing of the profession

Aim: To promote research in fields of interest to national libraries, always considering the opportunities to share experiences with other groups within IFLA and in close cooperation with CDNL, and to promote the contribution of national libraries to the profession.

Actions

3.1 Publish the Newsletter of the National Libraries Section in electronic form twice a year.

3.2 Take proactive measures to retain and recruit new members for the Section.

3.3 Maintain the nat-lib discussion list for all Section members and encourage discussion and information sharing through this channel.

3.4 Maintain the web page for the Section, ensuring it is updated with minutes, newsletters and any promotional leaflets describing the work of the Section.

Representing the interests of IFLA's members and their users throughout the world

Aim: To encourage national libraries to be strong advocates for collecting, preserving and providing open access to every nation's documentary heritage

4.1 Encourage members to lobby within their countries in support of IFLA's efforts within the framework of the WSIS to promote the essential role of libraries in the Information Society and to help reduce the digital divide.

4.2 Work with the Chair of CDNL to align the agendas of both groups more closely and ensure the strategic directions of the Section complements the strategic directions of CDNL.

4.3 Work with CDNL to ensure that the Section's IFLA sessions reflect the needs and interests of both Section and CDNL members.

4.4 Promote and maintain a directory of national libraries on Wikipedia