

IFLA President's Global Vision Meeting/Workshop

Barcelona, Spain

March 19-21, 2018

The purpose of this event was to start developing the IFLA strategic plan that will be implemented at the World Congress in 2019 and run through 2024.

Day 1:

The president's message is of change to improve global access to information. The message includes ideas of navigating the "oceans" of information and delivery with the goal of developing an informed citizenry. Through a series of speakers through the day, a variety of messages included:

Within change, everyone is a learner.

If you are not at the table, you are on the menu (quote from *The Economist*).

Create smart cities with smart citizens.

Connect with technology to make communities better.

Community networks need to be sustainable and scalable.

Truth is under attack.

Champion the public domain – it is the ultimate virtual library.

Libraries are expertise made visible.

Every librarian is an advocate.

A vision without an execution is a hallucination.

Day 2 and day 3:

These two days were the actual workshop. Participants attending from 35 countries were divided into ten groups for each to discuss one the global vision principles and suggest how they can be achieved through various actions or opportunities.

1. We are dedicated to equal and free access to information and knowledge. Our opportunity is to remain champions of intellectual freedom and freedom of expression.
2. We remain deeply committed to supporting literacy, learning and reading. Our opportunity is to support learning and literacy in the digital age for which we must adapt continuously.

3. We are focused on serving our communities. Our opportunity is to expand our outreach and design services that have measurable impacts on people's lives.
4. We embrace digital innovation. There is a pressing need to provide the right tools and infrastructure to seize the opportunities provided by digital innovation.
5. We have leaders who see the need for strong advocacy. There is a need to improve perceptions to achieve our goals.
6. We see funding as one of our biggest challenges. We need to ensure that our stakeholders understand the value of libraries. We need to make the case for support.
7. We see the need to build collaboration and partnerships. We need to create partnerships with other libraries and those outside the library field to develop a strong sense of unity.
8. We want to be less bureaucratic, inflexible and resistant to change. We need to overcome passive mindsets and embrace innovation and change.
9. We are the guardians of the memory of the world. We are particularly good at preserving and organizing knowledge for future generations. We must advocate for solutions to legal and funding challenges.
10. Our young professionals are deeply committed and eager to lead. We must give our young professionals effective opportunities to learn and develop.

What shall we do less of? Bureaucracy, working in isolation and maintaining outdated services.

What are our biggest challenges? Funding, technology and managing change.

More ideas are solicited.