

**IFLA Public Libraries
Standing Committee**

**Minutes of Mid-term
Meeting
Tampere
Finland
13 March 2019**



**IFLA Section
Public Libraries**

1. **Welcome** Jan Richards welcomed all Standing Committee members and observers and thanked them for making the trip to Finland and for attending the meeting. In particular Jan thanked Pirkko and Lepe for the work that they had done to make this visit so very enjoyable.
2. **Apologies:** (Jan)

Attendance: Jan Richards, Corinne Hill, Anette Mjöberg, Lo Claesson, Montse Espuga, Raymond Santiago, Jacob Guillois Laerkes, , Lenka Prucková, Sarah Dudek, Hitomi Takeuchi, Leikny Indergaard, Mark Freeman, Spaska Tarandova, Pirkko Lindberg,
Apologies: Margaret Allen, Annie Dourlent, Jos Debeij, Jane Wee, Shaddy Shadrach, Fatemeh Pazooki, Rusuda Asatiani, Qiang Xu, Susan Considine, Adriana Cybele Ferrari, Ismena Meic.
Guests: Leena (Lepe) Parviainen, Erik Boekestein, Sander van Kempen, Adriaan Langendonk

1. **Approval of the Agenda** The Agenda was approved by Jakob Guillos Laerkes and Raymond Santiago
 - **Approval of the [Minutes of the Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur](#)** The Agenda was approved by Lo Claesson and Jakob Guillos Laerkes
2. **Review of Action Plan 2018-2019** (as below) Attached
3. **OBJECTIVE 1: Support the sector through the sharing of best practice**
 - a. Undertake a review of *IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines*
Documentation for Expression of interest to undertake project ready to be sent to IFLA HQ. There will also be an opportunity to consult with delegates at the WLIC in Athens about the Guidelines. Details in 5/a/ii/4 below
 - b. Undertake a review [IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 for relevance](#)
Following discussions with IFLA HQ it was agreed to develop a campaign called *25 Stories for 25 Years* drawing on examples (ideally including videos) of public libraries demonstrating one or more elements of the manifesto at work. This would be in the lead up to the 25th anniversary of the Manifesto on 29 November 2019. This would require us to start the promotion on 9 June 2019. The concept is to have stories from around the world relating to the 12 missions of the public library. Sarah and Mark will create a planning document for us to complete and share this on Basecamp.

IFLA has also suggested a survey be developed and distributed to capture the thoughts of those who are not easily reached.

There will also be an opportunity to consult with delegates at the WLIC in Athens about the Manifesto. Details in 5/a/ii/5 below.

- c. *Deliver the annual Public Library of the Year Award in partnership with the sponsor (Systematic) and other IFLA Professional Groups*

There was considerable discussion around the importance of this prize and the recognition it gives to the Section and to public Libraries. The deadline for entries is 15 April 2019 and all members were reminded to actively promote the Awards through their networks and to encourage libraries to enter.

- 4. **OBJECTIVE 2** *Monitor, record and share initiatives that support equitable access to information and knowledge*

- a. Pirkko Lindberg spoke about [What's up in Finland](#) and gave us an interesting presentation about Finland and the libraries in Tampere
- b. European Capitals of Culture, ECOC –project Eija Oravuo, executive producer for European Capital of Culture 2026. She told us about the importance of culture in competition and about the richness of culture in Tampere. We all wish Tampere City good luck in the competition and will cross our fingers.

- 5. **OBJECTIVE 3: Build capacity for public libraries and public librarians internationally through an agile and engaged section**

- a. **Ensure the delivery of strong and relevant conference programs**

- i. **Rome 2019** Satellite with Academic and research Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment, Metropolitan Libraries [The evolving concept of 'Library' and its impact on library design](#) 21-22 August 2019

Jan, Leikny and Lo provided an update on progress for this Satellite.

Registrations are now open with Early Bird rates in place until 16 May

- ii. **Athens 2019**

The programs for which the PLS are involved in Athens were discussed.

1. **IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year**
Jan advised that IFLA has granted PLS additional hours so that PLOTY can be held without impacting on the other programs delivered by the Section. The program will follow the format of previous years where there is a focus on the learning of the shortlisted libraries before the winner is announced. Jan thanked the team who have been working on this initiative which is a highlight on the WLIC calendar and attended by many people.
2. *Enter the third dimension: measuring public library impact and outcomes on the success of our communities* Joint session with Metropolitan Libraries .Jan circulated the request from Carolyn Anthony for possible speakers for this sessions. Several suggestions were made and these will be passed onto Carolyn to pursue.
3. *Disaster Prevention Session* Joint session with Preservation and Conservation Section. It was agreed to agree to this partnership and Pirkko and Montse offered to be the liaison persons to work on this.
4. *Public Library Guidelines*
We have been given 2 hours for a session in the open program for the Public Library Guidelines. It was agreed that this could take the form of a workshop, perhaps using the Design Thinking approach. Spaska, Sarah and Corinne to coordinate.
5. *Public Library Manifesto* Jan will follow up with IFLA HQ about the possibility of having space in the exhibition area to promote the Public Library Manifesto and to engage in discussion with delegates about examples of the manifesto in action. A schedule would be drawn up in order that there were PLS members and colleagues there at all times. It was agreed that there would be the chance to

make some short films of delegates speaking about the Manifesto. Sarah, Ismena and Jan will work on this.

6. Other issues for Athens– meeting program and Section dinner
Spaska volunteered to find a venue for the Section dinner on Friday 23 August. SC meetings will be held on Saturday 24, 11.15-13.15 and Wednesday 28 10.45 – 13.15

iii. **Auckland 2020**

1. Satellite: For discussion, no conclusion reached
2. Program: For discussion, no conclusion reached

iv. **Mid-term meetings**

1. Mid-term meeting 2020 Olomouc Czech Republic. It was confirmed that the 2020 mid-term will be held in Olomouc. Lenka will confirm details in Athens.
2. Mid-term meeting 2021 Included for discussion, no conclusion reached.

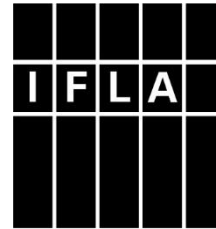
b. **Promotion and Sharing of information**

- i. **Guest Blogger** – There was a reminder to check when you are the guest blogger. Roster attached.
- ii. Participate in Strategic Framework Discussion the [results](#) of the survey sent to SC members was presented for discussion. Margaret will represent the SC at the planning meeting in The Hague in June where this will form the basis for discussion. As the Standing Committee's Action Plan will be superseded by the new IFLA strategic planning process it was agreed to extend the current plan with amendments until mid- 2019.

6. **Round Table** What is happening in your Country - What are the main issues for public libraries?
Attached as separate document

7. **Other Business**

Elections There was discussion around the election process. Many people have nominated to be part of the Standing Committee which is very pleasing. Jan Richards, Annie Dourlent, Raymond Santiago and Anette Mjöberg are leaving our PLS in Athens having each served 2 terms. Jos Debeij and Jane Wee have decided not to seek re-election for a second term.



IFLA Section
Public Libraries

Public Libraries Section
Action Plan
2018-2019

Public Libraries Section

Objectives of the Public Libraries Section Standing Committee 2018 -2019:

- 1. Support the sector through the sharing of best practice*
- 2. Advocate for equitable access to information and knowledge for communities world-wide that supports the democratic process, shared understanding and community well-being.*
- 3. Build capacity for public libraries and public librarians internationally through an agile and engaged Section*

Objectives <i>What do you want to achieve?</i> <i>Use your list above</i>	Project or activity <i>What project or activity are you going to do?</i>	Main tasks <i>What are the specific things you need to do?</i>	Responsibilities and timeline <i>Who will do them and by when?</i>	Communications <i>How will you communicate your achievements?</i> <i>To whom? By when?</i>	Measures of success <i>How will you show the impact of your work?</i>	Progress <i>Report here the progress of your work, at least every month</i>
1. Support the sector through the sharing of best practice	Undertake a review of IFLA <i>Public Library Service Guidelines</i> .	Engage consultant to work with industry stakeholders to review and update	Jan, Corinne, Raymond, Jakob, Jane, Hitomi, Adriana, Fatemeh	<p>Report back to Standing Committee at mid-term (March 2019) and annual (August 2019) meetings</p> <p>Report on agreed milestones to GB through Committee on Standards</p> <p>Communicate progress and engage with Public Library sector internationally.</p>	Relevant and timely standards developed that meet the needs of the public library sector as identified through broad consultation and input. This will be measured through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of downloads • Geographic distribution of use • Formal and informal feedback 	<p>Consultant brief further refined and referred to IFLA</p> <p>Standard application form completed and forwarded to Committee on Standards</p> <p>Session planned for WLIC in Athens.</p>

<p>Undertake a review IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 for relevance</p>	<p>Review Manifesto</p>	<p>Jan, Sarah, Margaret, Ismena</p>	<p>Mark 25th anniversary of manifesto on 29 November 2018. Report back to Standing Committee at mid-term (March 2019) and annual (August 2019) meetings</p>	<p>A relevant and useable document that meet the needs of the public library sector as identified through broad consultation and input. This will be measured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of downloads • Geographic distribution of use • Formal and informal feedback 	<p>Develop a campaign <i>25 Stories for 25 Years</i> drawing on examples of public libraries demonstrating one or more elements of the manifesto at work. This would be in the lead up to the 25th anniversary of the Manifesto on 29 November 2019 starting the promotion on 9 June 2019. The concept is to have stories from around the world relating to the 12 missions of the public library. Sarah and Mark will create a planning document for us to complete and share this on Basecamp.</p> <p>IFLA has also suggested a survey be developed and distributed to capture the thoughts of those who are not easily reached.</p> <p>There will also be an opportunity to consult with delegates at the WLIC in Athens about the Manifesto.</p>
<p>Deliver the annual Public Library of the Year Award in partnership with the sponsor (Systematic) and other IFLA</p>	<p>Review process in partnership with Systematic</p> <p>Establish partnership with IFLA Buildings and</p>	<p>Jakob, Leikny, Jan, August 2017 ongoing. Jury to be discussed at Mid-term meeting March 2019.</p>	<p>IFLA PLS website PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and other information providers - ongoing</p>	<p>Number and geographical distribution of entries</p> <p>Number of participants in</p>	<p>Entires in 2019 Awards will close on 15 April 2019. Judging will occur on 7 May in Helsinki in conjunction with the metLib Mid Term and online.</p>

	Professional Groups.	Equipment and MetLib sections. Expand reach for application Determine format for 2019 awards			related program at WLIC Media coverage (including social media) about awards and shortlisted/winning library/s	
2. Advocate for equitable access to information and knowledge for communities world-wide that supports the democratic process, shared understanding and community well-being	Monitor, record and share initiatives that support equitable access to information and knowledge	Continue to collect and share examples of best practice examples	SC members	IFLA PLS website, PUBLIB, PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and other information providers - ongoing	Number and geographical spread of stories Number of participants	Blog roster attached
3 Build capacity for public libraries and public librarians internationally through an agile and engaged Section	Ensure the delivery of strong and relevant conference programs	WLIC 2019 Satellite Meeting Rome, Italy 21-22 August 2019 <i>The evolving concept of "library" and its impact on building design</i>	Lo, Leikny, Jan	IFLA PLS website PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and other information providers - ongoing	Number and geographical spread of participants	Collaboration with Metlib, Academic and Research Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment, and Public Libraries. Registrations now open https://thechangingnatureoflibraries.com/

WLIC 2019 Public Library of the Year	Jakob, Leikny, Jan, Jane			Additional time has been granted in the WLIC program for the Awards which will follow the same format as previous years.
<i>Enter the third dimension: measuring public library impact and outcomes on the success of our communities</i>	Montse		Number and geographical spread of participants	In partnership with MetLib and Statistics and Evaluation Section
Disaster Prevention Session <i>Forward thinking to lessen the effects of disasters or all types, weather and/or man-made</i>	Montse, Pirkko,		Number and geographical spread of participants	In partnership with Preservation and Conservation Section Rare Books and Special Collections Section and Strategic Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC)
<i>Public Library Guidelines and Public Library Manifesto</i> Open Session	Corinne, Sarah, Spaska		Number and geographical spread of participants	Program for WLIC to be developed
<i>Public Library Guidelines and Public Library Manifesto</i> Consultation	Jan, Sarah, Margaret, Leikny		Number and geographical spread of participants	IFLA to be contacted re space in the exhibition area and activities developed.

Encourage public librarians to participate in IFLA conferences through the presentation of innovative papers or posters	Promote IFLA Conferences, Satellites and other professional development opportunities through local networks and social media Mentor PLS Section members and other colleagues and identify opportunities	All PLS Standing Committee members	IFLA PLS website PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and other information providers - ongoing	Number and geographical spread of participants	Support dissemination of call for papers through social media channels
	2019 Helsinki/Tampere Finland 12-15 March 2019	Pirkko		2019 Mid-term Satellite programme delivered Engagement of participants from host country	Successful seminar and mid-term conducted in Helsinki and Tampere. Seminar, <i>The Marrakesh Treaty in Action: Implementing the treaty and more ideas for accessible digital reading</i> was organised by Celia Library, IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities, and Finnish Library Association
	2020 Olomouc Czech Republic	Lenka		2020 Mid-term Satellite programme delivered	Date to be confirmed in August at WLIC

Participate in the promoting and sharing information using PLS Social media platforms, web and national networks	Guest Blogger Facebook Local networks PLS Website and other channels PUBLIB	All PLS Standing Committee Members Information Co-ordinator	IFLA PLS website PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and other information providers - ongoing	Engagement of participants from host country Members of the public library community are engaged with IFLA PLS measured by number and geographical spread of hits Number of stories published.	Blog roster attached – all members reminded to check the roster and ensure that they make 4 contributions during their month.
Encourage active participation in the Section	Develop an e newsletter that can be distributed to Section members and beyond	Annie and Jane	Website, Social media	Members of the public library community are engaged with IFLA PLS measured by number and geographical spread of subscribers	To be explored
	Establish mentor system for new SC members	Lo, Jakob	Email	Members of the SC feel confidence in working within IFLAs structure as measured by	To be explored

					their engagement in PLSC activities/projects	
		Ensure that Corresponding members are recruited to represent those geographic areas/language groups not covered by the SC	Jan	Established networks	SC is has diverse representation.	Corresponding members have contributed significantly to the work of the SC during the past 12 months. They will be eligible to be appointed for a second 2 year term if they desire.
Participate in IFLA's Global Vision discussion	Be involved in formal and informal discussions around the Global Vison process	All SC members	Website, PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and other information providers	PLS voice is represented		
Contribute to IFLA's Strategic Framework	Participate in survey	All SC members	Survey Monkey	PLS voice is represented	PLS contributed a report to this discussion	
	Be represented at Professional Unit Meeting June 2019	Margaret		PLS voice is represented	Margaret Allen to represent PLS	
To lead a project to work on Quality Assessment of Public Libraries Collections.	To set up the criteria on what and how to measure the quality of Public	Jane, Margaret, Corinne, Pirkko	Website, PLS blog and Facebook Page National library associations and	Creation of relevant Guidelines that demonstrate broad	In progress	

Libraries
Collections,
beyond that of
loans and other
output
measurements,
with
considerations of
cultural diversity
and sensitives that
need to be added
in such a
documentation.
The project would
also include a
proposal on how
and who will
conduct such an
assessment for a
Public Library.

other information
providers

consultation and
applicability



IFLA Section Public Libraries

IFLA PUBLIC LIBRARIES STANDING COMMITTEE BLOG ROSTER 2017/2019

- The Public Libraries Section blog is at <http://blogs.ifla.org/public-libraries>. There is also a link from the Section's page on the IFLA website <http://www.ifla.org/public-libraries>
- During your 'month' you are asked to write **four** blog posts. These can be on any topic you like and can be of general interest or relate to something happening in your country. This will be in addition to the general posts written by the information co-ordinator. If a particular month doesn't work for you, please swap with someone else but do let **Jane Wee** know.
- Posts can be in any language, preferably with an English translation.
- You have the option to post **directly** (please arrange with Jane Wee) to the blog or to send your information (and images) to her to post them for you.

Name	Month
Raymond Santiago	December 2017
Ismena Meic	January 2017
Anette Mjoberg	February 2018
Jos Debeij	March 2018
Hitomi Takeuchi	April 2018
Lenka Pruckova	May 2018
Margaret Allen	June 2018
Adriana Cybelle Ferrari	July 2018
Montserrat Espuga	August 2018
Corrine Hill	September 2018
Lo Claesson	October 2018

Leikny Indergaard	November 2018
Xu Qiang	December 2018
Spaska Tarandova	January 2019
Pirkko Lindberg	February 2019
Jane Wee	March 2019
Susan Considine	April 2019
Jan Richards	May 2019
Jakob Guillois Laerkes	June 2019
Annie Dourlent	July 2019

ROUND TABLE

UNITED KINGDOM

Austerity

Sadly, public library services in the UK are still experiencing challenges in funding and governance. Although it's true to say that there are still great projects and fantastic work being undertaken in public libraries, the negative stories continue to hit the headlines. Most recently, the city of Aberdeen in Scotland has announced that it would close all but one of their 17 libraries and most parts of the country, local councils are facing difficult budgetary decisions.

This continuing situation has led to an inconsistent picture across the UK with some services seriously affected and others still thriving. The governance of public library services has changed considerably and there are now a significant number who have "left" local authority control by becoming Trusts, Mutuals or other forms of independent service, delivering on behalf of the local authority.

This can be a risk but can also bring great benefits. The City of York has recently awarded a fifteen year contract with a guaranteed budget to York Explore who have been delivering the service as a staff partnership for around three years now.

Libraries Connected Projects

On a more positive note, Libraries Connected, our Sector Support Organisation has now been in operation for just coming up to a year. Formerly The Society of Chief Librarians (a loose association of Heads of Library Services), we are now supported by Arts Council England but remain a Member organisation which also covers Wales and Northern Ireland. We also work closely with our counterparts in Scotland who have their own sector support arrangements.

Our first year has been busy! Not only have we had to make the transition from the old to the new organisation but we have a number of ongoing projects including

- Commercially focused work to support Assisted Digital engagement for central government processes (eg Visa re-applications and biometric data capture)
- A "Blueprint for the future of public libraries" project funded by the Carnegie UK Foundation looking at the potential for change in governance and delivery of services to counter the current challenges and inconsistencies we experience.
- A Regional Support network bid intended to look at ways of supporting individual public library authorities across England through geographic areas.
- A full review of our six Universal Offers which is coming to a conclusion and will propose adjustments and developments which will be implemented later in the year.
- A review of our Public Library Skills Strategy which has produced a Library and Information Assistant's apprenticeship standard in its first phase, which we hope to build on and to look at succession planning for our ageing library workforce.

In addition we have tendered for Assisted Digital Work in supporting the 2012 Census – a decision on this is expected in April. We are bidding for funding to put in place some form of accreditation system for public libraries which captures evidence, outcomes and provides an incentive for local authorities to become involved. We believe that this would start to deal with some of the issues around inconsistency of service across the country.

Future developments and activities

The preparations for our annual Seminar in Warwick are almost complete and we will be focusing on Place Making this year for our theme. This has become a very important topic

for us in the UK where internet shopping and changes in the way we use our Town Centres have created a real need to re-evaluate how we use our High Streets. Libraries have played a central role in those places where regeneration has begun to take place and we have a wide range of speakers booked for our session in June to look at elements of this topic. Catherine Lau will be speaking about Singapore's approach to this and Jane Cowell will also be making a guest appearance to bring her experience to the UK.

New libraries are still being planned in the UK including some major projects such as the Lightbox in Barnsley and a new Central Library planned for the City of Hull, coming off the back of their great success as a City of Culture. In my own authority we will be replacing one of our branch libraries during 2020 moving from a shared building with a secondary school to a new Leisure and Wellbeing Centre with increased space and more facilities.

Usage of public library services may have declined in the UK and the austerity measures will have had their toll naturally, but there is still a very considerable audience visiting for a wide variety of purposes. Libraries in the UK are still the most visited cultural organisations and use of the digital and internet facilities continues to grow as more and more day to day activities move online.

Mark Freeman,
Libraries & Information Services Manager Stockton-on-Tees/ President, Libraries Connected

GERMANY

- E-Book-Lending: no movement so far: The non-commercial "lending" of e-books by public libraries remains unregulated. Although many publishers grant licences for e-books to libraries, they do demand higher prices for this and are increasingly combining this with months of waiting before libraries can even purchase new publications (which is known as "windowing"). This significantly limits the information available with e-media. Following the ECJ decision in November 2016, the dbv calls on the German government to make electronic "lending" legally secure for library customers. Every e-book that is offered on the German market for end customers must essentially also be available for purchase by libraries and the copyright holders must be fairly involved. Access to culture and information for all citizens, including in the digital world, is at stake.
- Sunday opening hours for public libraries: no movement so far: museums, theatres, research libraries and other cultural institutions are able to open on Sundays, this has not been legally possible for city and community libraries with their own staff. opening hours of libraries on Sundays are subject to federal legislation and are regulated within the framework of the Federal Working Hours Act, which only needs to be updated slightly to allow city and local libraries to open to the public on Sundays for educational and leisure purposes. (see. https://www.bibliotheksverband.de/fileadmin/user_upload/DBV/publikationen/dbv_Jahresbericht2018_engl_Web_final.pdf) The German library Association tries to get this changed, but it is quite a controversial topic in the library field itself.
- Intercultural funding: With its new programme 360° – Fund for New City Cultures, the Federal Cultural Foundation wishes to encourage institutions in the areas of the fine and performing arts, music, literature, architecture, New Media and related forms, as well as cross-genre institutions, cultural- and art-historical museums, which address contemporary issues in their related field, to take a perspective that encompasses all of society. The aim is to actively integrate the controversial, but promising issues of immigration and cultural diversity into these institutions and their city cultures, and thereby reduce infrastructural exclusion in the cultural sector. In the first and second round several libraries are funded (e.

g. Cologne Public Library, Hamburg Public Library). The aim is not only to broaden intercultural programmes, but to diversify library staff. (see: https://www.kulturstiftung-des-bundes.de/en/programmes_projects/archive/detail/360_fund_for_new_city_cultures.html)

- MINT: MINT is STE(A)M in English and has been a big topic in German libraries with an extra issue in the most popular magazine for public libraries in January (see <https://b-u-b.de/wp-content/uploads/2019-01-inhalt.pdf>). The Public Library of Cologne had its own MINT Festival in 2018, but even smaller libraries try to include makerspaces and STEM-workshops to their services.

Sarah Dudek

NORWAY

- **National Library Strategy 2015-2018**

A national survey conducted to the evaluation of the *National Library Strategy* was published in March 2019. The evaluation shows that after four years of National Library Strategy, Norwegians use public libraries more than ever. The national survey indicates that 54 % of the inhabitants say that they use their public library, when the library strategy started up in 2015 was the percentage 40 %.

- **The proportion of the population who use the libraries has never been higher.**

One third of the population replies that they have participated in an event organized by the library.

This study shows that the library strategy has functioned according to the intentions and that the libraries have become the meeting places we wanted them to become. Now we are starting to work on adding a new library strategy, which will apply from 2020, says Minister of Culture Trine Skei Grande.

Lending books and getting search help from the staff remain the primary activity in the public libraries. But there has been a strong growth in the proportion of library users who respond that they, during their last visit to the library, participated in meetings, performances, courses, debates and the like. The proportion of library users who respond to this has increased from 23 per cent in 2015 to 35 per cent in 2018. The proportion of library users who have used the library for play reading, studies or group work has increased from 19 to 27 per cent during the strategy period.

The National Library Strategy (2015–2018) was introduced to develop the libraries as meeting places and learning arenas and thus equip them for the future. During the strategy period, the government has allocated more than NOK 80 million (8 000 000 Euro) to increase the number of events and activities in the libraries. The National Library has been responsible for the distribution of project funds and has at the same time developed a common infrastructure that has released resources for the libraries locally.

- **A new National Library Strategy 2020-23**

The Ministry of Culture has initiated a new National Library Strategy for the period 2020-23. The Ministry of Culture has initiated work on the National Library Strategy for the period 2020-2023. The strategy will provide an overview of the state's responsibilities and tasks for the development of public libraries, and measures to support the municipal development work. This strategy will also include the School Libraries and the University Libraries.

I am appointed in the Ministry's reference group for this strategy 2020-24 as a representative of metropolitan libraries. I had the same position in the work on the strategy for 2014-2018 and have participated in the National Library's strategic advice board during this period.

- **The Book Year 2019**

This year is a national celebration of the book, reading and readers who go through 2019. The Year celebrate that it was 500 years since the first two Norwegian books were printed. Norway is host country for the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2019. There is a huge reading pleasure in the Norwegian people and more people use the libraries than ever!

Throughout Norway you will find conversations, reading, reading circles and launches at the country's libraries as part of the Year.

- **Digital content**

The beginning of the end for the public libraries?

The access to purchased digital content has become less see in recent years So the Library managers in the largest cities in Norway have made a warning in the newspapers dedicated to the Minister of Culture.

The content of Norwegian public libraries is currently approx. 95% analog and 5% digital. We mean that the Norwegian authorities must ensure an even distribution of knowledge and cultural goods in Norwegian language.

The libraries planned a 2019 with the possibility of more digital content and better services with e-books and e-audio books and digital duty delivery of books to the National Library . But now the Norwegian Publisher's Association has stopped all negotiations. The status of ebooks and e-audiobooks is worse that 2016-17. We demand that the Norwegian publisher association must come on the track and contribute to a solution that opens for lending of Norwegian e-audio books in Norwegian public libraries. Blocking lending by the format young library users demand testifies to short-term strategy and little understanding that next-generation readers - both borrowers and buyers - are at stake.

- **In Bergen** we have a great progress for the public library this year. The politicians have decided to build local branches in every part of the city to make local meeting places for all the inhabitants, community spaces. This year we get money to build 2 new branches, and are waiting for 4 more to come the next years.

The main library is too small (as many of you will know), and this year we start renovations to increase the public capacity from 750 to 1000 simultaneous users. Libraries in Bergen really have the wind in their sails!

Leikny Haga Indergaard

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Public Library Alliance has recently released its [National Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2022](#). This builds on the previous plan for 2015-2018 and the national vision and framework for Australian public libraries 2010-2015 within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategic priorities and actions for the next three years are:

1. National public library collaboration and advocacy
2. Supporting literacy and lifelong learning
3. Informed and connected citizens
4. Digital inclusion
5. Personal development and wellbeing
6. Stronger and more creative communities
7. Economic and workforce development

Details of what has been achieved by the Alliance over the past three years are detailed in [*Australian Public Library Alliance Achievements 2016-2018*](#)

Jan Richards

