



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Statistics and Evaluation Section

Strategic Plan 2008-2009

Mission

The Section aims to promote the application of statistics, evaluation and assessment in libraries, both for the successful management and operation of libraries and for the demonstration of the value of libraries to their users, parent institutions and funding agencies.

Goals

1. Promote and demonstrate the value of the use of measurement and evaluation in the management, operation and promotion of libraries and library services.

(Pillars: Society, Profession. Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)

1.1. Hold meetings and sessions at IFLA conferences and elsewhere in furtherance of the goal.

(Status: Ongoing.)

1.2. Maintain and develop the Section's part on the IFLA website and, where appropriate, elsewhere.

(Status: Impact and Outcomes bibliography has been moved onto the IFLA site. Validity of links in the links section to be reviewed.)

1.3. Improve communication with members and others through the development of the Newsletter, use of the discussion list and other appropriate measures.

(Status: Discussion list for committee members to be established.)

1.4. Encourage participation in the work of the Section by members in all parts of the world.

2. Advocate the use of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods and tools and the development and use of standardised measures.

(Pillars: Profession, Society. Professional priorities: (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice); (k) Representing libraries in the technological marketplace)

2.1 Improve the application of evaluation and assessment tools through instruction and continuing education, and through appropriate projects and advocacy.

(Status: Ongoing. Planning a session on education and training at the satellite Conference in Florence in 2009.)

2.2 Work with other organisations to promote the development and use of recognised standards for benchmarking and comparative analysis.

(Status: Ongoing. Several actions are in progress, including participation in an Expert Meeting on Book Statistics in Amsterdam, work on the Numeric project and on ARL statistics.)

2.3 Work with ISO, UNESCO and other international organisations to promote the development and use of recognised standards for benchmarking and comparative analysis.

(Status: Ongoing. Preliminary results presented at a post-conference in Montreal August 2008.)

3. Co-operate with, assist and advise other IFLA sections in the use of measurement and evaluation in their fields.

(Pillars: Society, Membership, Profession. Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (f) Promoting resource sharing; (h) Developing library professionals)

3.1. Continue to co-operate with other IFLA groups involved in the study and application of performance measures.

(Status: Ongoing. Continuing to co-operate with other sections in conference programmes: in 2008 with Management & Marketing and Library Theory & Research, and with National Libraries.)

3.2. Work with other IFLA groups, library associations and relevant bodies to develop workshops and projects.

(Status: Ongoing. Collaboration with University of Northumbria in nominating the Performance Measurement Conference as an IFLA satellite conference; and with bodies such as LISU and ARL. In discussion with the Libraries for the Blind Section on the possibility of running a workshop.)

4. Support international comparisons and collaboration with international agencies.

(Pillars: Society, Profession. Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (f) Promoting resource sharing ; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)

4.1. Develop working relationship with ISO and other standards organisations over the revision of standards for library statistics and performance measures
(Status: Ongoing. Report on ISO activities due at the first Milan meeting in 2009.)

4.2 Continue discussion with the UNESCO Institute of Statistics and other relevant bodies with a view to developing a new approach to global library statistics.
(Status: Ongoing. Successful three-year programme to reinvigorate global library statistics by 2008 conference, phase II in planning.)