



# IFLA ASIA OCEANIA REGIONAL QUARTERLY NEWS

April 2020 issue

## SPOTLIGHT

### Message from IFLA RSCAO Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Together, we are one supporting the libraries and our communities. The world is facing unprecedented challenges in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries are no exception. The impact on global and regional library world is enormous. Librarians have taken active measures to tackle the crisis and reach out to our communities beyond the physical boundaries. [\[Link\]](#)



Tina Yang  
Chair, IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia & Oceania Section

### Message from IFLA Regional Office

Dear Friends,

Do join me in congratulating Vicki McDonald on receiving the Membership of the Order of Australia. Congratulations too to Thailand's Rangsit University Library winning the 5<sup>th</sup> IFLA Green Library Award 2020. On a more sombre note, we are facing the first global pandemic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The emergence of Covid-19 has led many libraries around the world to mobilise and reach users in an unprecedented manner. This issue will look at how libraries in China, Indonesia and Singapore are coping. Please take care of yourselves in these difficult times. [\[Link\]](#)



Soh Lin Li  
Manager, IFLA Regional Office For Asia and Oceania



IFLA President and Secretary-General's statement on Covid-19 and Global Library Field. Libraries globally are affected by coronavirus disease. Some have closed or reduce services to limit the spread. [\[Link\]](#)



IFLA Library Map of the World is a source of basic statistics providing country-level and worldwide data for analysis [\[Link\]](#)



Six months into the launch of IFLA Strategy 2019 – 2024, IFLA looks at its achievements and what lies ahead. [\[Link\]](#)



IFLA congratulates Vicki McDonald, member of the IFLA Governing Board and Chair of the Professional Committee, on her receipt of the Membership of the Order of Australia, as part of Australia Day Honours. [\[Link\]](#)



The outbreak of the new coronavirus has attracted global attention. The National Library of China and the Chinese Library community have taken decisive actions and effective measures to make a positive contribution to the prevention and control of the epidemic. [\[Link\]](#)



Work/study from home and physical distancing are measures taken as prevention efforts to spread Covid-19 in Indonesia. [\[Link\]](#) The National Library of Indonesia has also taken various steps and measures to prevent and control the epidemic [\[Link\]](#)



The National Library Board Singapore boosts digital offerings after demand surges during Covid-19 circuit breaker period. It now offers 8,000 newly curated e-books with unlimited checkouts and more than 1000 popular e-books for adults that can now be borrowed without waiting time. [\[Link\]](#)



Thailand's Rangsit University Library won the 5<sup>th</sup> IFLA Green Library Award 2020. China's Hangzhou Public Library and Sri Lanka's Battaramulla, National Environmental Information Centre were amongst the five runner ups from our region. [\[Link\]](#)



### What is trending in the region?

**India:** Mobile Library increases rural students' engagement by providing access to technology and learning resources. It attracted 211 kids and 17 new kids enrolled after launch of program. [\[Link\]](#)



**Iraq:** Iraqi Libraries build infrastructure and expertise to safeguard and give access to documentary heritage. The goal was to assist Iraqi libraries in training their staff on the latest techniques of preservation and digitalisation. [\[Link\]](#)



**Qatar:** Qatar National Library's China and Southeast Asia manuscripts collection advances historical research on Islamic traditions. With around 700 volumes, mostly Qur'anic manuscripts, the collection is one of the largest of its kind in the region. [\[Link\]](#)



**Queensland:** State Library of Queensland celebrated the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages. It worked with 105 language groups and facilitated community access to the collection, research skills, recording languages and revival activities. [\[Link\]](#)



**Singapore:** kidsREAD is a nationwide community-based programme that promotes early reading and English language competency for children from different ethnic groups. It has helped more than 50,000 children from lower-income families. [\[Link\]](#)

