



National Libraries Section Strategic Plan 2015-2017

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.

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 IFLA 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 strategic directions:

1. Libraries in Society – empowering libraries to build literate, informed and participative societies.
2. Information and Knowledge – building a framework that promotes equitable access to information and knowledge in any format and in any place.
3. Cultural Heritage – working closely with other libraries and other cultural heritage partners to safeguard cultural heritage in its diverse forms, including traditional, historical, indigenous and contemporary expression.
4. Capacity Building – establishing the capacity to raise the voice of libraries and librarians at national, regional and global levels.

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

CDNL

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 will work in close collaboration with CDNL to define common activities. A meeting of the CDNL Chair and the NL Section Chair will be held in December 2015 to define a plan for 2016 in order to align the agendas of both groups more closely.

Strategic directions and key initiatives

For its Strategic Plan 2015–2017, the IFLA National Libraries Section has selected the following areas of the key initiatives on which to build. These all reflect National Libraries strengths and concerns.

1. Libraries in Society – the Section will promote standards to support libraries in the provision of services to their communities.

Activities:

- 1.1 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. 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.
- 1.2 Prepare an inventory of National Library tasks to assist colleagues across the world in defining their own activities and to lobby governments.

2. Information and Knowledge – the Section will help build a framework that promotes equitable access to information and knowledge in any format and in any place.

Activities:

- 2.1 Encourage national libraries to promote inclusive access to their collections for all through digitisation, access policies, promotion through social media.

3. Cultural Heritage – the Section will work closely with other libraries and other cultural heritage partners to safeguard cultural heritage in its diverse forms, including traditional, historical, indigenous and contemporary expression.

Activities:

- 3.1 The Section will work with IFLA to engage with partners in cultural heritage to develop and promote standards and good practice guidelines and encourage national libraries to be strong advocates for collecting, preserving and providing open access to every nation's documentary heritage.
- 3.2 The Section will promote the IFLA Risk Register encouraging national libraries (and others) to document library collections at risk during times of crisis, conflict or disaster.
- 3.3 The Section will support IFLA in its work with UNESCO on digital preservation including the PERSIST project which provides a roadmap for digital sustainability.
- 3.4 In 2016, the Section will co-organise a session on digital collaboration during WLIC IFLA 2016.

4. Capacity Building – establishing the capacity to raise the voice of libraries and librarians at national, regional and global levels.

Activities:

- 4.1 The Section will work with libraries and other partners to raise awareness of the role of libraries within the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- 4.2 The Section will work with the National Information and Library Policy Special Interest Group to reinforce the role of national libraries in the development of national policies.