

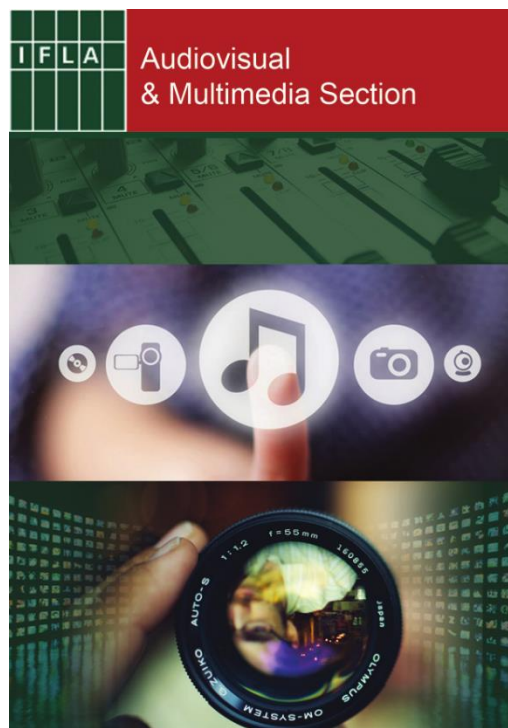


## GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the AVMS meeting

*How a united library field can tackle the  
challenges of the future*

June 2 - June 12, 2017



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## Introduction

On June 2-12, 2017, 13 librarians participated in a conversation via e-document about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represented 252 years of library experience.

Among the participants were librarians from different types of libraries such as National library of Science and Technology, National libraries, National Film and Sound Archive, National Audio-Visual Conservation Centre, Library of Congress, Community College library, University and Public libraries.

The group's conversation and comments reflected a belief that a united library field could ensure access to free information, education, and culture worldwide.

## A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to the debates in AVMS this means that libraries are a reservoir of uncensored, unbiased and unrestricted knowledge. They are a resource for minds of all ages -- the strategic reserve of knowledge for democracy. Libraries are major, respected, well-funded sources of information and media, networked and cost-free to everyone worldwide.

### The core values of libraries (Q4):

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1. Open, informed and guided access to the world's knowledge and creativity
2. Information, culture and fun
3. Accessible and free information and resources
4. Judgement free
5. Trustworthy source of knowledge

#### Comments:

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According to the answers, the core values of libraries are that they are open, free, accessible and trustworthy.

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### Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

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1. Source of subjects from different point of view and over time
  2. Helping everyone, providing non-judgmental access to what people need
  3. Welcoming everybody, providing free access to resources, if resources are not available on-site, then instructing patrons on how to use Interlibrary Loan
  4. Preserving all forms/mediums of knowledge and data
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5. Being neutral

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**Comments:**

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Libraries are consistent over time, welcoming, and provide access to information.

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**Libraries should do more of (Q6):**

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1. Promote and integrate into modern times
  2. Explore creative methods and private sector partnerships to open more rights-protected information to the public as well as advocating for public access to publicly funded information
  3. Focus on materials beyond text such as Audio visual and multimedia.
  4. Exposing hidden, often local resources to the world via cataloguing and linked data
  5. Ensure digital publications/e-resources are preserved for the future
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**Comments:**

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Via a global library network, open access materials and unique collections could be more visible. For the future researcher, we have to make sure that our digital collections are accessible and easy to read.

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**Libraries should do less of (Q7):**

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1. Focusing only on books
  2. Whatever their local patrons don't need/demand
  3. The corporatization of libraries
  4. Putting up barriers to entry and access
  5. Cataloguing
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**Comments:**

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These answers indicate that we have to analyse proactively what our patrons demand via internal assessment and evaluation of library services and resources.

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## Challenges and solutions

**The main challenges to society (Q8):**

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1. Bringing equality (gender, pay, digital divide, all voices)
  2. Promoting the availability of open access to trusted information.
  3. Forestalling ecological collapse. Coping with ecological damage.
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4. Education, especially of women.
  5. Overcoming exclusive, combative, and divisive rhetoric
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**Comments:**

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Equality and education are crucial for democratic society. The society must take action to combat fake news and work proactively for a better environment to prevent ecological damage.

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**The main challenges to libraries (Q9):**

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1. Not succumbing to trends, simply for the sake of being considered relevant by others
  2. Acquiring, preserving and making available information in ways that serve democratic society
  3. Be here and now as well as keeping the past
  4. Advocacy, and always be useful
  5. Funding
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**Comments:**

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Libraries should reflect the history and the present. Free access to information is necessary for a democratic society.

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**The main professional challenges (Q10):**

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1. The absence of a collective sense of the 'profession of librarianship' in the various types of libraries
  2. Not enough travel fund allocation to attend professional development conferences, not enough diverse students pursuing the field of librarianship; not enough pay raises -- only select few always get the higher pay raise
  3. Redefining the qualities and structures of information and data in usable ways
  4. Innovation
  5. Keeping pace with technology
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**Comments:**

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To stay relevant, the Library field needs additional funding to develop both staff and new technology resources. Librarians need training and opportunities to meet colleagues to develop new knowledge and create networks.

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## How a united library field can make a difference

### How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

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1. Access for all
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2. Bring more positive visibility to libraries and to the profession, join together in pushing back against privatization and high prices of resources
  3. Reading is fundamental - information, education, freedom
  4. Providing a sound foundation for progress in society
  5. Promoting shared commitments and unified voices with the goal of bringing knowledge to all
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**Comments:**

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A united library field can collaborate and work to provide free access to information for all.

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**The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):**

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1. Promoting shared commitments and speaking with common voices
  2. A strong voice for the right to free information, culture and education
  3. Libraries without frontiers
  4. Acknowledgment that libraries better society
  5. Consistent high quality library services
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**Comments:**

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A united library field could bring up and work together with issues that are common for all types of libraries the wish to give everyone free access to education and information.

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**The focus of a united library field (Q13):**

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1. Work for the right to free information, culture and education
  2. Democracy and freedom of speech in a global perspective
  3. Free access to information (open access)
  4. Networking
  5. Sharing knowledge
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**Comments:**

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Together the Library field can be a strong free option to give global access to relevant free information

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## A global conversation

This report was created interactively using an e-document between June 2-12, 2017. It was part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. At the end of 2017, the first results of all the workshops and online discussions will be turned into a *Global Vision Report*, which in turn will be adapted into concrete strategies, processes and work programmes in 2018.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit [globalvision.ifla.org](http://globalvision.ifla.org).

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following [#iflaGlobalVision](https://twitter.com/iflaGlobalVision) and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>.