GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

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

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https://twitter.com/UNLibrary/status/883374149149884416

Contributors

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A vision for libraries

Libraries are a gateway and partners in action for change in the world; accessible, efficient, catalytic, strategic, instrumental and influential in creating positive realities and achieving development goals; and invaluable in democratising and validating knowledge and information, and in disseminating ideas for individual empowerment and enhancement of inclusive communities.

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1. ***Multilingualism***
2. *Freedom of Information*
3. *Quality and accuracy*
4. *Privacy and freedom of expression*
5. *Client-orientation*

Comments:

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1. ***Providing facts***
2. *Organization and preservation of knowledge resources*
3. *Retrieval*
4. *Responsive to user needs*
5. *Dissemination of information*

Comments:

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1. ***Be more inclusive, including reaching and working with youth and bringing the community together***
2. *Communicating and asking questions, training of clients and staff , and knowledge sharing*
3. *Marketing of libraries and their services, including branding*
4. *Innovate and manage innovation s strategically, take positive action, and co-compete effectively*
5. *Collaborative and more supportive of each other as professionals and institutions*

Comments:

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. *Hiding ourselves, our knowledge and products*
2. *Inward focus*
3. *Overspecialization*
4. *Complaining*
5. *Silo building and defence*

Comments:

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. *Fake news*
2. *Information overload*
3. *Rapid technology obsolescence*
4. *Technological incompleteness to solve critical institutional and societal problems*
5. *Invisibility and crowding out of critical enablers and common goods like libraries*

Comments:

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. *Budget cuts and poor funding*
2. *Rebuilding old facilities and creating fit-for-purpose new ones*
3. *Harnessing social media*
4. *Capacity building in critical areas*
5. *Digitization and preservation*

Comments:

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. *Multitasking*
2. *Professional development and multi-skilling*
3. *Overcoming resistance to change*
4. *Faddism*

| 5. | Strategic management of new trends |

Comments:

How a united library field can make a difference

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

1.	**Amplification of key professional values and messages**
2.	Grow funding in scale and in variety of sources, and share resources
3.	Finding and speaking with one voice (globally and locally)
4.	Embrace openness in it various forms
5.	Brand sector, libraries and services aggressively

Comments:

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1.	**Diversity**
2.	Leader on Knowledge-based issues, authoritative
3.	Impact-oriented
4.	One strong voice
5.	Highly professionalized

Comments:

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1.	**People: clients, community, professionals**
2.	Access to knowledge and information
3.	Contributing/Providing answers to burning questions
4.	Being out there/seriously social
5.	Research and service, being part of the solution

Comments:

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.

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