

## IFLA Information Technology Section Strategic Plan 2013-2015

### Mission

The Information Technology Section (ITS) serves to promote and advance the innovation and application of information technologies (IT) to library and information services in all societies and countries, through activities related to standards, education and training, research and the marketplace. To address this mission statement, the Section defines general goals and key activities, with dedicated working groups, which will be evaluated continuously by the standing committee.

### Goals

**1. ITS will investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge and practical advice about information technology innovations that have or could become significant potential for library services in present or in future, but which have not been widely adopted for different reasons.**

**Key initiatives:** (1) Digital Content Programme: Driving access to content, and digital resources, for library users; (4) Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme: Culture is a basic need, a community thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it

#### Actions:

- 1.1. ITS will explore open source solutions and encourage communities to develop applications for libraries. These topics will be addressed by different activities of the Section such as specific sessions at the annual information congresses, supporting activities of other IFLA sections and providing web-based information on the IFLA web site.
- 1.2. ITS will pay special attention to the integration of library data into the web environment via linked data.
- 1.3. ITS will promote knowledge within the IFLA community on creative ways of using of mobile devices and library data.
- 1.4. ITS will support the Semantic Web Special Interest Group (SIG) through satellite conferences, specific sessions at the IFLA annual congress and other means to promote their efforts.

**2. Develop, promote, and communicate technologies, services, and new developments in digital library services and standards to relevant communities within IFLA.**

**Key initiatives:** (1) Digital Content Programme: Driving access to content, and digital resources, for library users; (3) Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession: connecting, collaborating, representing strategically; (4) Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme: Culture is a basic need, a culture thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it

#### Actions:

- 2.1. Promote discussion of technological innovations and open source applications in digital library management via satellite conferences, sessions at the IFLA annual congress, the IFLA IT section website and other means.
- 2.2. In collaboration with other sections (especially the Preservation and Conservation Section), encourage innovation in technology supporting long term conservation, storage, and preservation of digital objects and libraries.

**3. ITS will investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge about applicable IT for access to information resources, with special attention to enhancing access resources in developing countries and for users with special accessibility needs.**

**Key initiative:** (1) Digital Content Programme: Driving access to content and digital resources for library users

**Actions:**

- 3.1. To serve the needs of smaller and special libraries, with a special interest in developing countries, ITS will explore the application of Open Source and distributed services supporting those libraries. This will be done by encouraging tutorials, case studies, and resource development related to distributed technologies, web, and library services in support of those libraries.
- 3.2. ITS will promote knowledge related to improving accessibility through mobile devices and in interactive platforms by supporting sessions at the IFLA annual congress and other means, such as the IFLA ITS web site.

**4. ITS will identify and promote standards, guidelines and best practices for the management of information and IT resources and improve efficiency and service level of library operations, and interoperability between library systems and between library services and other information services. This includes issues such as metadata and data structures, data manipulation techniques and long-term availability of electronic information (See also 2.2).**

**Key initiative:** (1) Digital Content Programme: Driving access to content and digital resources for library users

**Actions:**

- 4.1. ITS will provide leadership on the implications of information technology on standards, best practices, and experiences in various topics such as open source software, cloud computing, bibliographic ontologies, digital preservation, and metadata. These will be addressed in IFLA annual congress events as well as information dissemination through the IFLA ITS web page.
- 4.2. ITS will specifically engage in both the Namespaces technical group and the Semantic Web SIG as a partner in the work of both of these groups.
- 4.3. ITS will cooperate with major standard bodies and development groups as appropriate.
- 4.4. ITS will promote standards related to RFID through the RFID SIG and its sessions.

**5. ITS will work as a consultation body for IFLA projects, activities and section programmes and will encourage and support projects within the scope of the strategic plan by maintaining close contacts with other IFLA sections and Core Activities, as well as with other international and national associations and organizations focused on information technology.**

**Key initiatives:** (2) International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme: capacity building to raise the voice of the profession nationally, regionally and internationally; (3) Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession: connecting, collaborating, representing strategically

**Actions:**

- 5.1. Liaise with other IFLA sections and encourage ITS membership to participate and provide feedback on new or revised IFLA standards, guidelines, and studies.
- 5.2. Work with other national and international associations to enhance dissemination of information across associations and cross-fertilize activities among groups.

- 5.3. Specifically work with IFLA ALP (Advanced Librarianship Programme) and eIFL to support initiatives towards promoting Information technology competencies.
- 5.4. Will develop a register of IT section competencies and communicate to the appropriate IFLA channel identifying current ITS capabilities and projects and offer assistance within the competencies of current members of the standing committee**
- 5.5. Monitor IFLA activities that pertain to the IT Section and follow-up with additional communication where relevant