IFLA Management of Library Associations Section

Strategic Plan 2008-2009

Mission

"Libraries on the agenda", the current IFLA Presidential theme, is in harmony with the overall scope of MLAS as the section which:

- supports the role of IFLA as an international advocacy agency and policy maker

- promotes the importance of library associations in individual countries

- addresses the interests, aspirations and concerns of the library associations represented among IFLA members

- provides leadership which encourages associations to be more active and conscious of societal responsibilities

- supports the needs and interests of all types and sizes of library associations, taking into account that there is a continuum of resources available to library associations: some have paid staff and others are run by volunteers, both possessing a wide range of experience and expertise

- welcomes the participation of all library associations, both IFLA and non-IFLA members, in its activities.

1. The Society Pillar

Goals

Promoting the role of the national library associations in IFLA policy development and in influencing decision making on library matters in society in general and with a focus to the ongoing WSIS follow-up process as carried out by UNESCO and other international organisations.

Thus relating to IFLA professional priorities (2001):
(a) Supporting the role of libraries in society;
(b) Defending the principle of freedom of information;
(c) Promoting literacy and reading;
(d) Providing unrestricted access to information;

Actions

1.1 Advise IFLA governance structures on international policy-making on general library issues including FAIFE and CLM aspects and on the role of national library associations through the GB co-opted seat (MLAS chair, currently Sinikka Sipilä)
1.2 Support the implementation of the IFLA Three Pillars Strategy through section activities
1.3 Act as a partner and consultative body for IFLA governance structures on policy matters relating to national library associations on a running basis
1.4 Recommend appropriate strategies to IFLA on matters relating to national library

associations
1.5 Partner with IFLA in global lobbying activities and programmes
1.6 Share experiences and best practises in national associations' work for promoting national library development, information strategies and library legislation on national level
1.7 Support national library associations in implementing IFLA policies and decisions through twinning projects such as the GLAD-programme.

2. The Professional Pillar

Goals

Strengthen library associations as representative bodies for the library and information sector and encourage their full and active participation in IFLA and the MLAS.

Thus relating to IFLA professional priorities (2001):
(a) Supporting the role of libraries in society;
(h) Developing library professionals;
(i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices;
(j) Supporting the infrastructure of library associations;

Actions

2.1 Further MLAS priorities (see scope) through sessions at IFLA Conferences inviting representatives of library associations to participate.
2.2 Working within the IFLA infrastructure to identify and cooperate with other associations or bodies that are involved with library association development; with a specific focus on the developing world together with ALP in order to establish and strengthen national library associations in member states.
2.3 Glad-Programme: To strengthen leadership skills and competencies of library association officers and representatives and monitor and give support in order to effectively operate library associations through various projects.
2.4 Hold a mid-year meeting of the MLAS Standing Committee hosted by one of the members and meet with colleagues from the association within that country, or have a study tour of the appropriate institutions. These meetings are open to all library associations as observers.

3. The Members Pillar

Goals

Promote IFLA's Advocacy and Professional Priorities in MLAS projects and programmes.

Thus relating to IFLA professional priorities (2001):
(h) Developing library professionals;
(j) Supporting the infrastructure of library associations;

Actions

3.1 Submit information and news items regularly about the MLAS priorities and activities for the IFLA Journal, the IFLA website and the Section Newsletter [Responsibility of the Information Coordinator].
3.2 Communicate regularly with the IFLA regional offices, offer MLAS input/information to regional programs including distributions of MLAS publications.
3.3 Foster the work of the IFLA ALP Core Activity programmes in cooperation with the ALP Advisory Board and the ALP Office.
3.4 Work to increase association membership in IFLA through the GLAD-Programme.