

***“10 ways to make a public library work / Update your libraries”.***

Public library principles are the foundation of the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994. This manifesto is a universal framework which expresses the general aims that public libraries should follow and the services that must be developed to provide universal access to global information.

IFLA and UNESCO understand that libraries and municipal governments need guidelines to help standardise the implementation of the Manifesto. IFLA Sections have worked to provide several guidelines including recommendations, best practices and standards to improve library services. Over the last few years, several guidelines have been published as follows:

- *The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto*. IFLA. 1994.  
<http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/iflaunesco-public-library-manifesto-1994>
- *The Public Library Service: IFLA/UNESCO guidelines for development*. IFLA Publications 97. Munchen, Germany. Saur 2001. ISBN 3-598-21827-3.  
<http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s8/proj/publ97.pdf>
- *Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults*. IFLA Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults.  
<http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s10/pubs/ya-guidelines-en.pdf>
- *Guidelines for Children's Library Services*. IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section, 2003.  
<http://www.ifla.org/files/libraries-for-children-and-ya/publications/guidelines-for-childrens-libraries-services-en.pdf>
- *The IFLA Internet Manifesto*. IFLA. 2002 and updated with the Internet Manifesto Guidelines 2006. <http://archive.ifla.org/III/misc/im-e.htm>
- *The Guidelines for Library Services to Babies and Toddlers*. IFLA Children's and Young Adults Section. 2007. <http://archive.ifla.org/VII/d3/pub/Profrep100.pdf>
- *Meeting User Needs. Online Resource List*. IFLANET (First issued 2005 and last updated August 2007 on [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)).  
[http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s8/proj/Mtg\\_UN-Checklist.pdf](http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s8/proj/Mtg_UN-Checklist.pdf)
- *The Role of Libraries in Lifelong Learning*. Final report of the IFLA project under the Section of Public Libraries, 2003.  
<http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s8/proj/Lifelong-LearningReport.pdf>
- *The Multicultural Library- a gateway to cultural diverse society in dialogue*. IFLA Multicultural Section. 2007.  
<http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s32/pub/MulticulturalLibraryManifesto.pdf>
- *Public Libraries, Archives and Museums: Trends in Collaboration and Cooperation* IFLA Public Libraries Section. 2008. IFLA Professional Reports: 108.  
<http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s8/pub/Profrep108.pdf>

The IFLA Public Library Section has now produced some additional recommendations to supplement the Public Library Manifesto so that public libraries can place their services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century using modern technologies which have become available since 1994.

We hope that you will share with us the conviction that our public libraries have a relevant role in the developing world of Internet and digital provision. Library staff skills will have to be continually developed and enhanced but we believe that the degree of success of the public library and its role with these technologies in the next few years will be determined as the key to opening the gateway of a new global community.

We have to be "brave" and propose new ideas to improve our libraries services.

1. Develop public library buildings with the emphasis as community/cultural spaces not just physical stores of knowledge.
2. Liberate our services using the World Wide Web 2.0 and look towards Web 3.0 and 4.0.
3. Connect with our communities and educate and train people. Librarians and Information Scientists can act as educators and personal knowledge advisors and not just keepers of keys or Internet gatekeepers.
4. Develop a "world wide wisdom" – a global knowledge and understanding by creating international cultural pathways on the web.
5. Work internationally to erode barriers and censorship whilst respecting all cultures.
6. Support our staff with continued training and encouragement to be proactive.
7. Develop our digitised collections services and knowledge – the hybrid library – knowledge, education and information in diverse forms.
8. Improve accessibility to our catalogues and databases especially for users with visual impairments.
9. Establish national and international standards on the Internet environment.
10. Public libraries as cultural storehouses – the "live" environment alongside the "recorded" one – archives, museums, libraries and culture combined: a "comby library".

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