



Presentation of the report of the IFLA Secretary General at the General Assembly of the 80th IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Lyon, France

Secretary General:

Dear members, dear colleagues

With libraries having an increasingly important role as providers of equitable access to information in today's dynamic information environment, so too is it increasingly important for IFLA to set the right strategic goals as the "global voice of the libraries". As a more strategic organization IFLA is now well-placed to do this. Today I will report on some of our Key Initiatives and strategic programmes.



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A smaller version of the IFLA 2014 LYON logo, featuring the text 'IFLA', '2014', and 'LYON' in white against a blue background with a white lightning bolt graphic.

Financial

The Treasurer will report to you on the financial result for 2013. We are continuing to refine our financial operations so that they meet our changing needs. Securing income is always a challenge in an organization such as IFLA that depends totally on raising funds to cover our expenditure. However we are fortunate that the goodwill towards IFLA is strong both from within our sector and from supporters outside our sector and assists us greatly through memberships, donations, grants and in kind support. Without such ongoing support from you we would not be able to achieve what we have. We separate our operating budget into our core business – that is what is required to run IFLA as an organization – and our Key Initiatives. Some of our members assist us financially with donations to our Core Activity and other programmes within our core business and we are very grateful for this, particularly with the current economic constraints for many libraries. This helps fund these programmes – we are always happy to receive such donations, no matter how small. Our Key Initiatives must be funded through grants from funding bodies for us to do them. Fortunately we have managed to secure this funding in 2013 and 2014. On Tuesday we were proud to announce with Global Libraries a new 4 year grant for advocacy for public access to information in our Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

Key Initiatives



Key Initiative 1 is our Digital Content programme for fostering the growth of libraries in an evolving digital information environment, as key stakeholders providing access to information, education and research and social participation.

The IFLA 2014 LYON logo features the text 'IFLA' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font at the top. Below it, '2014' is written in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'LYON' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. A light blue, stylized graphic element resembling a 'V' or a checkmark is positioned behind the text.

So what have we achieved with our Key Initiatives?

The President has reported on some Outreach and Trend Report activities.

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Achievements in 2013-2014

- Libraries are one step closer to facilitating exchange of accessible format copies for the world's blind across national borders
- IFLA releases international library position on text and data mining
- IFLA releases Principles for Library eLending
- IFLA Trend Report sparks discussions on the changing role of libraries worldwide

The logo for the IFLA 2014 Lyon conference. It features the text 'IFLA' in a large, bold, black font at the top, '2014' in a slightly smaller, bold, black font in the middle, and 'LYON' in a bold, black font at the bottom. The text is set against a white background with a light blue shadow effect.

Achievements in 2013-2014 include:

Libraries are one step closer to facilitating exchange of accessible format copies for the world's blind across national borders

IFLA, through CLM, LPD and the Exceptions Working Group, has been an active supporter of an international copyright treaty ensuring access to books for the world's blind for over a decade. The Marrakesh Treaty was signed on 28 June 2013, with representatives from IFLA present at the Diplomatic Conference. It resulted in:

- libraries recognised as essential stakeholders (“authorised entities”) in making accessible format copies for their visually impaired patrons, and enabling the exchange of copies across borders
- an international standard that ensures technological protection measures (TPMs) cannot prevent the making of accessible format copies.

The ongoing challenge is to have the Treaty signed by the national members of WIPO. This, and our ongoing advocacy for legal certainty for copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives at WIPO, has brought IFLA recognition as a key stakeholder in international copyright activities.

IFLA releases international library position on text and data mining

The legality of text and data mining under copyright laws continues to be a topical issue for IFLA members worldwide. In December 2013 IFLA published its position on text and data mining, which:

- Establishes the international library position regarding text and data mining and copyright law
- Provides international guidance for libraries advocating for copyright reform that would legitimise text and data mining at the national level

We also continue our discussions with the International Publishers Association and other international organizations on TDM. This is one area of collaboration within our Memorandum of Understanding recently signed with LIBER.

IFLA releases Principles for Library eLending

Another topical issue for IFLA members worldwide has been the evolving eLending environment, and business models adopted by publishers. IFLA's release of its Principles for Library eLending in August 2013 provides:

- Internationally agreed principles to guide libraries and publishers in their eLending negotiations
- An international standard, or "best practice" model to shape eLending practices
- This document continues to be updated.

IFLA Trend Report sparks discussions on the changing role of libraries worldwide

The launch of the IFLA Trend Report at the Singapore World Library & Information Congress (WLIC) in August 2013 was the result of eighteen months consultation on the evolving information environment with a range of experts. Following the launch of the IFLA Trend Report, there has been:

- Translations of the Insights document into 14 languages
- Workshops and Trends discussions between library and information professionals on every continent
- Integration of IFLA Trend Report into government and organisational, cultural and information policy

The IFLA Trend Report has initiated serious conversations among library & information professionals world-wide regarding their future role and activities, and enabled the establishment of new government and NGO partnerships



Key Initiative 2 is about sustainable capacity building to raise the voice of libraries nationally and internationally : International Leaders and BSLA Programmes

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Key Initiative 2 is about sustainable capacity building to raise the voice of libraries nationally and internationally :
International Leaders and BSLA Programmes

Achievements 2013-2014:

- Through a three year grant from Global Libraries commencing in August 2013 we are implementing our Building Strong Library Associations in the Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and Caribbean regions. Just this year around 35 associations across IFLA's regions have experienced the programme, bringing the number of associations participating in BSLA over the last 4 years to 60; this has also provided a platform for national associations to collaborate on capacity building, strengthen their understanding of issues and priorities across their region, and implement small projects based on their own needs;
- Through the IFLA International Leaders Programme we have developed a cohort of 12 advocates across a broad geography and sectors who are able to represent IFLA regionally and internationally;



Key Initiative 3 is our Outreach programme

Post-2015 Development Framework – United Nations Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Lyon Declaration

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Key Initiative 3 is our Outreach programme, which includes:

- Post-2015 Development Framework
- United Nations Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals
- and the Lyon Declaration

IFLA has NGO status within the United Nations ECOSOC Committee which has responsibility for preparing the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A key feature of the SDGs is that they are for all UN member states, not just developing or emerging economies. We have been participating in this process at the UN in New York and other forums and our aim is to have public access to information, and the importance of culture, included in the text of the SDGs. Our intensive work together with a number of other NGOs has brought results, with the UN's Open Working Group Outcome Document released in July containing 17 goals, and the inclusion of increased public access to information as a target under Goal 16. Other goals and targets reference health and reproductive health information, access to ICTs, and culture.

Our next action will be the promotion of the Lyon Declaration, launched during this Congress, at the UN Department of Information (DPI) NGO conference in New York on August 28 and 29. The Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and

Development is an advocacy document to positively influence the content of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. I urge you to have your organization sign the Declaration.

IFLA's policy base provides us with leverage and scope to advocate under the umbrella of access to information until December 2015, when negotiations on the post-2015 goals are expected to be completed and a UN Summit held. A longer term goal is to assist our members in reporting to their governments on how libraries contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Our Outreach will be assisted by the ongoing development of our websites in our seven languages.



Our fourth Key Initiative is about
Cultural Heritage: IFLA's Risk Register
for Written Cultural Heritage; the
PERSIST project; PAC programme



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IFLA is working closely with our 12 Preservation and Conservation Centres and our Preservation and Conservation Strategic Programme Advisory Group on a trial to gather data on endangered collections worldwide for the Risk Register, in an effort to assist risk mitigation. The Board's working group is designing a nomination form for interested parties to

submit details to the Register; and later this year will consider the hosting platform which could be used for storing the data received, and is consulting with our heritage colleagues ICOMOS, ICOM, International Committee of the Blue Shield, and UNESCO. The Risk Register is part of our wider agenda for the importance to society of cultural heritage that includes our work with other international organizations.

The PERSIST project is a follow up to the UNESCO/UBC VANCOUVER DECLARATION The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation. IFLA was a co-host of a meeting in The Hague on the 5th and 6th of December 2013. The results were the definition of three areas which demanded further work and investigation. These are:

- Content selection
- Policy
- Technical

Three task forces were formed which deal with each of these subjects. IFLA is leading the content selection task force and is participating in the policy and technical task force.

The content task force has a session at this Congress to start the discussion which will lead to a set of guidelines on content selection.

On 1 January this year the Preservation and Conservation Core Activity office re-located to IFLA HQ after approximately 22 years in the BnF. We thank the BnF for the remarkable job done by all over those years in building the global PAC network, promoting the importance of PAC work, and in skills development.

Professional units

Many of our professional units are participating in, or as for the Copyright and other Legal Matters Committee and ALP taking the lead on, activities within our Key Initiatives. They are also busy on activities such as supporting training, development of standards, guidelines and policies, and publications. They continue to be a unique international network for sharing information and ideas across and beyond our sector.

Membership

Our membership numbers have stabilised during the years of the economic crisis and we are working hard to retain members and recruit new members to increase our membership. It is also important that our membership representation is global, and our Regional Offices and Language Centres play a very important role in representing members and recruiting members.

Finally, my thanks

The achievements of IFLA are the sum of our many parts. It is a collaborative effort by our members, our Governing Board, our staff, and other organizations that believe in what IFLA is doing and the importance of access to information and knowledge through valued library services.

I have great support in doing what I think is the best job in the world. I thank you all for your ongoing commitment to IFLA. This is a great organization, made strong through the values we share as library professionals dedicated to improving opportunities for access to information and to building strong societies.

President, I present the report of the Secretary General to the Meeting and would be happy to answer any questions.

Jennefer Nicholson
IFLA Secretary General