

Information Technology Section

Strategic Plan 2010-2011

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 sections 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.

Professional priority: (k) Representing libraries in the technological marketplace.

Actions:

1.1 Explore solutions and applications for library personalised services such as electronic reference services, electronic document delivery and recommender systems. These topics will be addressed by different activities of the section: specific sessions, support actions and web-based information.

1.2 ITS will pay special attention to the integration of library and information services into heterogeneous applications and institutional service-sites (compare also 4.1)

1.3 Establish web 2.0 services for the communication of technologies and strategies supporting Library 2.0 Innovation. Therefore ITS hosts a dedicated SIG.

2. Develop and promote technologies and services supporting Digital Libraries. Communicate new developments in Digital Library Services and standards to relevant committees.

Professional priority: (k) Representing libraries in the technological marketplace. (f) Promoting Resource Sharing (g) Preserving Our Intellectual Heritage

Actions:

2.1 Promote discussion of technological innovations and open source applications in digital library management

2.2 In collaboration with other sections (especially the Preservation and Conservation Section), encourage innovation in technology supporting long term conservation of digital storage and preservation.

3. ITS will investigate, evaluate, and communicate knowledge about applicable IT for access to information resources, with special attention to needs regarding regions where telecommunication networks are of low capacity, or are not easily affordable.

(Professional priority: (d) Providing unrestricted access to information.

Actions:

3.1 ITS wants to serve the progress of IT-use in small or special libraries with a special interest in developing countries. IS will explore the application of Open Source and distributed services supporting those libraries – encouraging tutorials, case studies and resource development of distributed technologies, web & library services supporting those libraries.

3.2 These will be addressed in conference events and information dissemination through the ITS web 2.0 services.

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).

(Professional priority: (i) Promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices) (f) Promote resource sharing

Actions:

4.1 Promote dissemination of standards, best practices and experiences in topics such as open source software, DCMI, MARC, XML, bibliographic ontologies, digital preservation and metadata. These will be addressed in conference events and information dissemination through the web page.

4.2 Liaise with major standard bodies and development groups.

4.3 Monitor projects and recommend best practices regarding the integration of library management systems with other applications such as courseware, portals and digital repositories. Especially focussed is the topic of standardized search interfaces (eg. SRU/SRW), machine to machine services communication (SOAP, WSDL, REST) and machine-based transfer in the context of the semantic web. These will be addressed in conference events and information dissemination through the ITS [web 2.0](#) services.

5. ITS 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 associations and organizations focused on IT.

(Professional priority: (h) Developing library Professionals)

5.1 Liaise with other IFLA Sections and encourage ITS membership to provide exchange and feedback on new or revised IFLA standards, guidelines and studies.

5.2 Liaise with other national and international associations to enhance dissemination and cross-fertilization of activities.

5.3 Liaise with IFLA ALP (Advanced Librarianship Programme) and eIFL to support initiatives towards promoting Information technology competencies.

Key activities in working groups

1. Open source Software in libraires:

Topics/Activities

- a) Promote an enterprise vision of open source for libraries by:
 - Establishing an open-source sub-site with open source comparative reviews and enterprise open source architecture for libraries & with recommendations
 - Promoting the interaction between open access and open source and institutions as publishers
- b) Communicate successful strategies, examples and standards in open source deployment by:
 - Documenting / Sharing experience in Integrating open source systems (LMS to Digital library. Publishing to Digital library) and promoting standardised interfaces
 - Publishing a special issue of the newsletter focussing on Open Source
- c) Examining the possibility of one-day workshop on Open Source systems at the IFLA congress in Gothenburg.

Collaboration with other key institutions - UNESCO / UN /ICT 4D

- a) Co-operate with organisations promoting information literacy
- b) Virtualisation approaches offer opportunities to implement “out of the box” examples of open source enterprise implementations (including LMS, Digital Library). Promote funding for a project developing a virtualised example of the Enterprise open source library service architecture.

2. Semantic web

Topics

- data modelling and URI design – cooperation between different existing initiatives;
- software evaluation and benchmarking;
- success stories – existing projects using Semantic Web technologies should be encouraged to share their results within IFLA;
- trust issue – ensuring digital provenance of RDF data and qualification of authoritative datasets;
- licensing issue.

Actions

Possible actions envisioned by the IT section for the coming years:

- advocacy and awareness raising (starting in 2009);
- technology watch reports and list of projects (starting in 2009);
- providing best practice and possibly guidelines (starting in 2010);
- contributing the standardization effort (starting in 2010).

3. Digital preservation:

Topics

- workflow modelling and design
- organizational change and decision making
- integration of different communities into digital preservation flows
- success stories or implementations in libraries.