

# National Libraries Section

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2011

### Mission

The IFLA National Libraries Section is a focal point for supporting the vital role of national libraries in society as custodians of the nations' intellectual heritage, thus providing organisation, access to and preservation of the national imprint in all media.

The Section aims at providing leadership in the areas of concern to national libraries, always in recognition of the needs and views of every region of the world. The Section's activities and goals underpin IFLA's three pillars, in particular: Society Pillar through its work in the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) and its support of national libraries world-wide; the Profession Pillar through its support and cooperation with the IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Digital Strategies (ICADS) and its professional practice and the Member Pillar through its information services (e-list, leaflets and newsletter). In pursuing its goals, the Section will support and promote the President's theme, *Libraries driving access to knowledge*.

A related but independent association is the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) which was established to discuss policies and promote understanding and cooperation on matters of common interest to national libraries worldwide.

### Goals

**1. To promote the universal availability of information by such activities as encouraging the creation and building of national libraries, the development of national legislation for national libraries - especially legal deposit dispositions and preservation activities - and to promote the convergence of information and heritage institutions.**

*(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (b) Defending the principle of freedom of information; (d) Providing unrestricted access to information; (e) Balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users; (f) Promoting resource sharing; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage.)*

## **Actions**

- 1.1 Hold open Standing Committee meetings at IFLA conferences to promote the exchange of information, discussion of issues and collaboration between national libraries
- 1.2 Collaborate with other Sections on conference sessions to promote shared goals as appropriate.
- 1.3 Collaborate with other Sections on projects to achieve shared goals as appropriate.
- 1.4 Work with colleagues in Division 1 to achieve common goals
- 1.5 Promote and maintain a directory of national libraries

## **2. To serve as a forum to share and learn from the experience of the practical problems of national libraries, in order to promote benchmarking, best practices and quality models, and to improve management skills.**

*(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (b) Defending the principle of freedom of information; (d) Providing unrestricted access to information; (f) Promoting resource sharing; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice.)*

### **Actions**

- 2.1 Support the work of the Cataloguing Section in promoting the new RDA cataloguing standard (Resource Description and Access)
- 2.2 Publish the Newsletter of the National Libraries Section in electronic form twice a year.
- 2.3 Update the leaflet on the National Libraries Section and promote its translation into IFLA's official languages and its wide dissemination.
- 2.4 Take proactive measures to retain and recruit new members for the Section.
- 2.5 Maintain the nat-lib discussion list for all Section members and encourage discussion and information sharing through this channel.
- 2.6 Maintain the web page for the Section, ensuring it is updated with minutes, newsletters and any promotional leaflets describing the work of the Section.

## **3. To promote research in fields of interest to national libraries, always considering the opportunities to share experiences with other groups within IFLA and in close cooperation with CDNL, and to promote the development and implementation of standards.**

*(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (b) Defending the principle of freedom of information; (d) Providing unrestricted access to information; (f) Promoting resource sharing; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage; (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice.)*

## **Actions**

- 3.1 Support and cooperate with ICADS in their workplan regarding long-term management and archiving of electronic resources.
- 3.2 Encourage members to lobby within their countries in support of IFLA's efforts within the framework of the WSIS to promote the essential role of libraries in the Information Society and to help reduce the digital divide.
- 3.3 Work with the Chair of CDNL to align the agendas of both groups more closely and ensure the strategic directions of the Section complements the strategic directions of CDNL.
- 3.4 Work with CDNL to ensure that the Section's IFLA sessions reflect the needs and interests of both Section and CDNL members.
- 3.5 Support and cooperate with the World Digital Library and its Working Group on Digital Library Guidelines.
- 3.6 Support and cooperate with the National Organisations and International Relations Special Interest Group.