GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the Health and Biosciences Section meeting
How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future

On various dates

Contributors

This report was created by:

some members of the Health and Biosciences Section.

Index

Introduction

On various dates in 2017, librarians participated in a conversation via email discussion about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent over 80 years of library experience.

The participants came from academic, academic, public libraries as well as lecturers in library science.

While the respondents came from diverse backgrounds, counties and had different experiences the theme was positive in that all libraries and librarians had a very positive role to play in ensuring that the right information got to the right people at the right time and that it will make a difference to their lives and communities.

A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to the debates taken place on various dates and discussion via email.

E.g. Libraries are an accessible source of factual information, where people come to find the truth. Libraries are inclusive community centres where all voices are represented. To make this vision reality, librarians feel part of a global community where they exchange ideas and help each other overcome challenges.

The core values of libraries (Q4):

[LIST ANSWERS Q4: Remove text in italics]

1. *Access, innovation, freedom, learning, communication, collaboration*

2. *Foster and promote an information environment for the inquiring minds of community through the development of collections, facilities and services*

3. *Providing reliable and authoritative health information*

4. *The ALA list on core values is excellent and aligns with my values: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues*

5. *…*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

[LIST ANSWERS Q5: Remove text in italics]

1. *Knowledge and documents' organization & preservation, intermediation, information retrieval*

2. *Provide tailor-made professional advice for accessing information in all scenarios*

3. *Providing free access to information Knowledge management*
4. *Protecting intellectual freedom*
5. *Gathering places*
6. *Archiving and preserving our past*
7. *Curating distinctive collections*
8. *Making unique content available*
9. *Service Orientation*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

[LIST ANSWERS Q6: Remove text in italics]

1. *Promote themselves more (their activity) and promote their importance in society*
2. *Get involved more in their community's life and in user education*
3. *Meet better the needs of their users*
4. *Promoting open access*
5. *To learn the information behaviour of the new digital generation*
6. *Outreach to diverse groups*
7. *Data management*
8. *Keep up with technology and systems*
9. *Collecting, organizing, and preserving information*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

[LIST ANSWERS Q7: Remove text in italics]

1. *Do nothing and remain just in the past*
2. *Cut down traditional services which can be replaced by information and communication technologies*
3. *Focus on traditional collections model needs re-evaluation*
4. *…*

5. ...

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

[LIST ANSWERS Q8: Remove text in italics]

1.	*The progress of the ICT, the mobility of people*
2.	*Information life cycle is much shortened and the accessibility and format of information resources change rapidly*
3.	*Poverty, terrorism, hatred*
4.	*Without libraries we'd lose one of our most valuable cultural heritage preservation modes*
5.	*...*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

[LIST ANSWERS Q9: Remove text in italics]

1.	*The huge amount of information and documents and the continuous changing needs of users. Keeping up with the new technologies*
2.	*The expanding free access to information on the Internet*
3.	*Provide access and archiving information resources with newly emerging format and unstable availability*
4.	*Information access for the world's most poor*
5.	*Concern that we are only being perceived as a space/place – need to preserve intellectual focus on libraries*
6.	*Retain focus on intellectual freedom and education*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

The main professional challenges (Q10):

[LIST ANSWERS Q10: Remove text in italics]

1. *To cope with the ever-changing information needs and master the skills of advancing information technologies*

2. *Professional Development*

3. *Librarianship as a profession is changing – we need to evaluate the type of education and experience required to address future needs*

4. *Abundance of information*

5. *…*

Comments:

I don't work as a librarian/in a library. But if I were a librarian the challenge would be to make the colleagues from libraries in my country understand that innovation and changes are necessary and that they should open their eyes to what is happening in libraries from abroad and try to collaborate with other libraries.

How a united library field can make a difference

How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

[LIST ANSWERS Q11: Remove text in italics]

1. *Working together and better, Sharing all types of resources and experience, collaborating and establishing partnership for various activities*

2. *Deep collaboration among libraries through sharing of resources, services and expertise*

3. *Engage and empower our users in designing the future of libraries*

4. *…*

5. *…*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

[LIST ANSWERS Q12: Remove text in italics]

1. *Collaboration, better and diverse services to users, same/high quality library services everywhere in the world*

2. *Connect libraries and transform information services with new technologies in continuous changing societies*

3.	Transparency
4.	…
5.	…

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

[LIST ANSWERS Q13: Remove text in italics]

1.	*To better meet and serve the users and the society in general by working together and sharing the resources*
2.	*To create new library standard for the digital age*
3.	*Global engagement – we are increasingly connected despite disparities in connectivity*
4.	*…*
5.	*…*

Comments:

[FREE TEXT AREA, PLEASE USE TO DESCRIBE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIFICS FROM THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR GROUP]

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process, via email discussiona on various dates. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. At the end of 2017, the first results of all the workshops and online discussions will be turned into a *Global Vision Report*, which in turn will be adapted into concrete strategies, processes and work programmes in 2018.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit globalvision.ifla.org.

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following #iflaGlobalVision and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on https://globalvision.ifla.org.

* Additional instructions:

- ▪ *Please send the report to globalvision@ifla.org not later than 14 days after the meeting*

- *The report must be written in English*
- *Please update the Index by choosing the option to update entire table*
- *Before submitting the report, please make sure that all parts highlighted yellow have been replaced by text and/or data and remove any remaining fragments highlighted yellow*