



GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the Committee on Acquisition and
Collection Development meeting
*How a united library field can tackle the
challenges of the future*

June 13, 2017

Contributors

This report is created by: Ann Okerson, Chair, Committee on Acquisition and Collection Development, with the participation of committee members, both Standing and Corresponding.

Index

Index	2
Introduction	3
A vision for libraries	3
The core values of libraries (Q4):	3
Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):	3
Libraries should do more of (Q6):	3
Libraries should do less of (Q7):	4
Challenges and solutions	4
The main challenges to society (Q8):	4
The main challenges to libraries (Q9):	4
The main professional challenges (Q10):	4
How a united library field can make a difference	5
How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?	5
The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):	5
The focus of a united library field (Q13):	5
A global conversation	5

Introduction

On 13 June 2017, by Zoom conference, 12 librarians participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 277 years of library experience, about half from academic libraries, the rest from a mix of national, public, and research libraries. We had a lively discussion within the limits of the Zoom format, though we did not have time to complete work on all the questions.

A vision for libraries

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1. Cultural heritage preservation
 2. Promoting equitable access to information for diverse peoples and publics
 3. Inclusion and diversity
 4. Freedom of access to knowledge, intellectual freedom
 5. Outreach and social responsibility
-

Comments:

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1. Collection development and management
 2. Selection, managing, and filtering resources
 3. Public services: offering free access to information, social inclusion; knowing the users we serve
 4. Providing public spaces for learning and collaboration
 5. Supporting research
-

Comments:

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1. Collaborate and connect beyond libraries, with GLAMs, with our wider communities, globally
 2. Be where our users and communities are (policy-makers, decision-makers, broad public) by using all available means, e.g., marketing, social media
 3. Become the go-to, trusted source for information
 4. Proactively advocate for intellectual freedom, copyright, technology, resources and funds
 5. Keep our “eyes on the prize”, be positive
-

Comments:

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. **Reduce bureaucracy and inefficiencies; stop “asking permission” to take action**
 2. Don't talk only to other librarians
 3. Don't think “content” before thinking “public”
 4. Escape political passivity, don't be quiet regarding library and societal (and also funding) needs
 5. Escape the need to control, complain, resist
-

Comments:

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. **Poverty and inequity (e.g., global health, education, disparity in access to information)**
 2. Climate change, environmental threats, population growth, sustainable development
 3. Exclusion rather than embracing diversity
 4. Corruption
 5. War, violence, and disaster
-

Comments:

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. **Need to continuously demonstrate social value**
 2. Finding new ways to serve and engage users; esp. using new technologies
 3. Open access and the changing nature of scholarship and of publishing
 4. Global economic inequality
 5. Insufficient resources and funding
-

Comments:

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. **Time for keeping up with constantly changing technology and innovations**
 2. Demonstrating value of library services to constituents and decision-makers
 3. Advocating – “no silent voices” – defend values, freedoms; also budgets
 4. Translating the needs of the community to library services
-

5. Keeping staff up to date – training, development, energy

Comments:

How a united library field can make a difference

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

1. *We did not have time to discuss this question.*

Comments:

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1. *We did not have time to discuss this question.*

Comments:

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1. *We did not have time to discuss this question.*

Comments:

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process, by Zoom conference on 13 June 2017. 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](https://twitter.com/iflaGlobalVision) and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>.