GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the Committee on Standards meeting

How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future

This 'meeting' was held as an online survey in June 2017

Contributors

This report is created by:

Members of

- Committee on Standards
- FRBR Review Group
- ISBD Review Group
- Linked Data Technical Sub-Committee (LIDATEC)
- Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC)

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Introduction

During June 2017, members of IFLA's Committee on Standards and the associated review groups participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future using Survey Monkey. Together we represent more than 150 years of library experience representing academic, national bibliographic agencies, graduate education and research and public libraries.

A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to our debates online this means that libraries:

Survive; be better considered in the overall community; be enabled to preserve and disseminate the historical value of their heritage

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1. Inclusiveness
2. Professionalism
3. Accessibility
4. The knowledge they have in their heritage
5. Respect

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1. Equitably providing information and access to all types of people
2. In organizing and presenting the information
3. Respect for cultural memory
4. Collaboration
5. In selecting and enriching the value of information

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1. Collaboration and trust including global cooperation
2. Advocate for shared data
3. Focus on core task – making knowledge freely and easily available…
4. True marketing (using customer research data)…
5. Form preservation networks

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. Being rule bound policing user behaviour
2. Working in isolation
3. Passively accepting the status quo
4. Focussing on non-essential issues
5. Reinventing the wheel

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. Disengagement in society
2. Marginalisation of community groups economically and politically
3. Lack of political leadership
4. Climate change and sustainability
5. Global unbalance

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. Lack of support from funding bodies
2. Avoiding marginalisation
3. The false idea that digital is free
4. Advocating the value of heritage and culture
5. Being truly global

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. Decreased funding
2. Need to incorporate new learnings into professional toolkit
3. Incorporation of new technology into processes and services
4. Use of librarianship to address global unbalance
5. Lack of staff

How a united library field can make a difference

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

1. Shared responsibility for global advocacy
2. Develop common expertise
3. Model good citizenship
4. Shared pride in the profession
5. Promoting professional development

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1. Collaboration, sharing, trust
2. Common values
3. Transparency of decision making
4. Visibility to decision makers
5. Pride in the profession

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1. Access to information
2. Diversity of resources and services
3. Preservation of information
4. Cooperation at national, regional and global level
5. Make libraries more visible

A global conversation

This report was created in an interactive process, during June 2017 via Survey Monkey. 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/.