GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the FAIFE meeting
How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future

11 April 2017

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Introduction

On 11 April 2017, at CILIP, London, 10 librarians participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

A vision on libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies.

The core values of libraries:

1. *Freedom of access to information and freedom of expression*
2. *Professional service delivery*
3. *Empowerment of Users*
4. *Preservation*
5. *Trust and integrity.*

Comments: Human rights, advocacy and equalities were common themes in the discussion.

Libraries are exceptionally good at:

1. *Organising information*
2. *Collaboration*
3. *Complacency*
4. *Dedication*
5. *Defending intellectual freedom*

Comments: There was an interesting contrast between the professional and service skills that we offer, with being self-critical and also complacent about the challenges that we face.

The objectives libraries should strive for:

1. *A literate and participative society*
2. *Making information accessible to all*
3. *Advocacy and lobbying*

4. *Innovation and being open to technology*

5. *Updating LIS curriculum and CPD*

Comments:

Advocacy was again an important thread, together with the need to ensure that new and existing workers need the skills in a rapidly changing world to ensure that libraries and knowledge should be at the centre of society.

Libraries should work for:

1. *Users and potential users - Everyone and society*

2. *Users and potential users - Everyone and society*

3. *Users and potential users - Everyone and society*

4. *Users and potential users - Everyone and society*

5. *Users and potential users - Everyone and society*

Comments: There was a real recognition that the focus should be on users and potential users. However, this should be balanced by a recognition that funders, parent institutions, creators/authors and other stakeholders are important and legitimate audiences.

Activities libraries should do:

1. *Champion public interest and involvement in public debates*

2. *Advocating/championing FAIFE principles*

3. *Innovation to empower staff and users*

4. *Knowledge hub, resource development and managements, and being a public space*

5. *Engaging with professional associations*

Comments: The activities that libraries should do essentially build on worth they already do well. They should develop their unique contributions and advocate very strong for their principles and role

Libraries should stop doing:

1. *Being complacent and resisting change*

2. *Stop playing unreasonable prices for content*

3. *Handing power and decision making to big companies*

4. *Stop storing unnecessary data*

5. *Stop providing services that do not add value*

Comments:

Libraries and library workers should develop the confidence to provide the leadership and strategic decision making that will help support and build their roles in society.

Challenges and opportunities

The main challenges to libraries in the next 5 years:

1. *New roles for the profession*
2. *Relevance*
3. *Funding*
4. *Uncertainty and technology*
5. *Sustainable development goals*

Comments:

The main challenges to society in the next 5 years:

1. *Climate change*
2. *Terrorism and security, war, migration*
3. *Technological - hacking/cybersecurity/cybercrime/data security/surveillance (ubiquitous) and censorship*
4. *Globalisation/localism*
5. *Artificial intelligence*

Comments:

Libraries can impact societal challenges:

1. *Advocate / raise awareness about surveillance, censorship, FAIFE issues*
2. *Provide information and be impartial, leading to reduced inequality*
3. *Playing a major role in developing an evidence base to address challenges*

4.	*Supporting and strengthening communities, eg supporting refugees, integration, and the understanding of different cultures*
5.	*Adapt information and services to the local environment*

Comments:

Libraries can overcome their internal challenges:

1.	*Leading transformative change in their own services to meet the needs of users and individual users*
2.	*Using assertive evidence based advocacy*
3.	*Develop our staff, reskilling and CPD*
4.	*Develop the libraries evidence base including assessment of the quality of services*
5.	*Collaborate with other libraries and like minded organisations and unlike minded organisations*

Comments:

There was a strong view that we need to build the evidence base to strengthen and support our advocacy, and also and the development of our services.

How libraries should change:

Ideas:

Remember, change is constant

Make every effort to change just because it is difficult does not mean we should not do it

Be more comfortable with technology

Be proactive, not reactive; be vocal and outspoken

Respond to and shape user requirements and non/potential user requirements

Actively work to shape the future

Review professional ethics and maintain an ethical position

Be curious

Advocate and promote FAIFE principles and issues

Work to improve the image of the profession

User participation

Collaborate with all relevant stakeholders

Have a clear (Global) Vision

A global conversation

This report was created in an interactive process, in London on 11 April 2017. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

Over the course of two years, between 2017 and 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 discussion will be turned into a Global Vision Report, which will be translated into 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.