GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section SC meeting
How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future

21 June 2017

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Introduction

After the IFLA VISION WORKSHOP in Athens in May 2017 the Chair of IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section (P&CS), Dr. Alenka Kavčič Čolić, informed all P&CS Standing Committee (SC) members on the project and distributed the questionnaire. On a special Zoom videoconference on which a total of 6 SC members took part explained about the goals of the IFLA VISION WORKSHOP and afterwards during the SC business meetings in Wroclaw additionally tried to motivate SC members to take part in the survey.

Unfortunately, due to the very general scope of the survey, it was very difficult to attract a major group of participants in the questionnaire. So far we have got 4 respondents with a total of 100 of years of experience. The results are below.

A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, digitallity becomes overwhelming. There is room for events and entertainment, happenings and exhibitions, the living room is for the citizens. We transmit more digitized and born-digital materials directly to patrons via internet and talk to patrons via internet on their request. Libraries collect (research) data on a regular base, develop collections in the full range of responsibilities this means ("Curation"), we are the central place for information, digital literacy trainings, makerspaces, handling the e-publishing activities of the institutions and people we serve for, we interlink objects, we produce data on data, we build the trusted net of information…

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1. *we act as information experts and we bring the information fitting to the requests under the principles of freedom of information and we guarantee for trusted content*

2. *we are enablers of research and added value / sufficient answers, extend knowledge and know-how, beware*

3. *we preserve and curate the knowledge of the human being with special focus on the cultural heritage – as the base of human culture we need to find the answers for the future.*

4. *We are communication and learning spaces, we serve for participation and democratic exchange in societies*

5. *We fight for literacy, which means much more than the "method" itself, but the capacity to participate independentlyin the global information arena*

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1. *Preservation of written cultural heritage*

2. *Metadata, organizing linked knowledge systems showing the semantic connections between and on objects*

3. *Collection building, both physical and digital*

4. *Extending copyright and licencing boundaries*

5. *We offer perfect places to work, to collaborate, to communicate, to support reading capabilities*

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1. *More presence and visibility as custodians for preservation of the cultural heritage*

2. *More cooperation and exchange on success factors and stories*

3. *Preserve endangered cultural heritages*

4. *Sharing of data, of knowhow*

5. *Extend copyright and licencing boundaries*

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. *Separate internal discussions on metadata standards and regulations like index rules from the debates where libraries can contribute to the progress of society*

2. *Reduce the effort for internal workflows*

3. *Not spread the focus too wide apart*

4. *Complain*

5. *Be passive instead of requiring national politicians to support their efforts in preserving valuable library materials*

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. *Inequality*

2. *Terrorism and armed conflicts*

3. *Freedom of information and education*

4. *Stay with our cultural fundaments*

5. *Willingness to support education, learning and culture*

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. *Lack of respect for cultural heritage*

2. *Lack of respect for the truth*

3. *Lack of funding*

4. *Translate the changing tasks into action*

5. *Natural and man-made disasters*

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1.	Digital transformation and data curation capacities including capacities to act with data
2.	Lack of understanding the value of the physical collections
3.	Move from object-oriented view to a more collection-based directed to promote what the library can offer
4.	Keep learning the changing needs of patrons and rapidly evolving technological environment
5.	Managing in today's political atmosphere

How a united library field can make a difference

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

1.	Networking
2.	Benchmarking
3.	Sharing information and propagating library's mission to the society
4.	Common understanding on future tasks
5.	Preparing for disasters

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1.	Sharing information and best practices
2.	High level of visibility, thrilling USP
3.	Goal oriented
4.	Assertive
5.	Aggressive in its pursuit of outstanding and relevant library services which support needs of community and society in general

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1.	Cultural Heritage and its digital derives (and all the handling around), but even the collection of new publications (in the net) could become an anchor of orientation and interest for broader groups of the society
2.	Sharing information and best practices
3.	Inclusion
4.	Influence
5.	Establishment of competency and standards for librarians in the 21st century

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process. 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*