



# IFLA ASIA OCEANIA REGIONAL QUARTERLY NEWS

July 2020 issue



## SPOTLIGHT

### Message from IFLA RSCAO Chair

Dear Colleagues,

The past few months saw libraries in different parts of the world preparing for their reopening. Libraries can refer to the resources developed by library professional associations and learn from their experiences. The COVID-19 has not only brought us exceptional challenges but also opportunities for us to survive and thrive. Under the IFLA Global Vision, we will continue to work together and support each other. [\[Link\]](#)



Tina Yang  
Chair, IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia & Oceania Section

### Message from IFLA Regional Office

Dear Friends,

COVID-19 continues to devastate and change the world. Libraries and information services now have to adjust how we operate to continue engaging our users, such as increasing the use of technology to roll out online services and resources. In this issue, we share the COVID-19 resources of IFLA, Australian Library and Information Association and Library and Information Association of New Zealand. As libraries attempt to cautiously reopen, we feature in this issue how libraries in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore adopted safety measures in their reopening. Please stay safe and take care. [\[Link\]](#)



Soh Lin Li  
Manager, IFLA Regional Office For Asia and Oceania



IFLA Governing Board has cancelled the World Library and Information Congress 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [\[Link\]](#)



IFLA has a resource page on "COVID-19 and the Global Library Field" on Libraries responses in this difficult pandemic period. [\[Link\]](#)



IFLA produced a COVID-19 edition on "How to Spot Fake News" infographic. [\[Link\]](#)

Australian Library and Information Association Australian Public Library Alliance, has published an interim report on "COVID-19 and Australian Public Libraries". [\[Link\]](#)



LIANZA has a "COVID-19 Coronavirus and New Zealand LIS Sector" resource page with information on COVID-19 and safety measures Library staff and users should take into consideration. [\[Link\]](#)



Malaysian Libraries supported their Government's effort to curb the COVID-19 infection. The National Library of Malaysia, community and village libraries that closed on 16 April 2020 cautiously reopened their premises to the public again on 16 June 2020. [\[Link\]](#)



The National Library of China reopened in an orderly manner on 12 May 2020 after formulating detailed planning and careful preparation for rolling out its services that emphasise public safety. [\[Link\]](#)



Hong Kong University is dealing with a challenge of whether to open or not to open. Its libraries had to face this twice, once during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak in 2003 and COVID-19 pandemic now. [\[Link\]](#)



Singapore Libraries reopened on 1 July 2020 with shorter opening hours from 11am to 7pm daily. Visitor capacity is limited to 50 people per floor and users are allowed to only borrow and return materials. [\[Link\]](#)



COVID-19 has upended the global economy and the way we live, forcing companies and institutions to adapt to consumer behaviour in the post-pandemic world. Libraries and archives, which have existed for thousands of years, serving as gateways to knowledge, history and culture, must adapt too. [\[Link\]](#)



### What is trending in the region?

IFLA Division V and the Indian Library Association organised a webinar on "IFLA initiatives for global libraries and its Strategy for 2019-2024". [\[Link\]](#)



IFLA Division V and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) organised a webinar on the theme 'Information literacy: Knowing the right news in the digital age'. [\[Link\]](#)



Kuala Lumpur officially becomes UNESCO World Book Capital 2020 on World Book and Copyright Day, 23 April 2020, The opening was conducted virtually over its social media channels due to the Covid-19 pandemic. [\[Link\]](#)



National Library Board Singapore has partnered with the Autism Resource Centre to create a satellite digitalisation centre to provide new learning and work opportunities for people with special needs. [\[Link\]](#)

