



Report of the Secretary General

Dear members, dear colleagues

The Governing Board is in the process of developing the 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan for IFLA as the trusted global voice of the library and information community. Our Trend Report and the Lyon Declaration have been strong influences in the development of the Plan. Our Plan focuses on strategies for inspiring societies by driving access to information, knowledge and culture for all, to support development, learning, creativity and innovation. There have been many consultations during this Congress on the proposed Key Initiatives for 2015 - 2016.

Financial

The Treasurer will report to you on the financial result for 2014. We are continuing to refine our financial operations so that they meet our changing needs and can allocate financial resources to the most important services and activities for our members. We are fortunate that there is a great deal of goodwill towards IFLA both from within our sector and from supporters outside our sector who assist us greatly through memberships, donations, grants and in kind support. Your ongoing support enables IFLA to achieve what we have through our core business operations, Core Activity programmes such as CLM, FAIFE, ALP and PAC, and our Key Initiatives within our Strategic Plan. We acknowledge your commitment, particularly with the current economic constraints for many organisations and institutions. We are always happy to receive such support, no matter how small. Our Key Initiatives are funded through donations and grants from funding bodies. Fortunately we have managed to secure this funding in 2014 and 2015.

As we come towards the end of our 2010 – 2015 Plan I would like to share with you some of our activities over the last year.



Cultural Heritage

- Risk Register for documentary heritage in any format
- UNESCO PERSIST project
- Memory of the World UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including digital forms
- a new Preservation and Conservation Centre in Sri Lanka National Library for pest control and tropical climates; and an Arabic PAC Centre at the Qatar National Library
- Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee



Cultural Heritage

We have created a Risk Register for documentary heritage in any format. We worked on this with our Preservation and Conservation Section, PAC Centres network and cultural heritage partner organisations. The Register aims to raise awareness about collections at high risk to natural and man-made disasters, for preservation, conservation and the safeguarding of documentary heritage worldwide, and includes geo-spatial information. The nomination of a collection can be done through our website. Nominations then go through a selection process before being included in the register. We understand the need to protect details about some collections or parts of collections and so the data is maintained on a secure system accessed by IFLA authorised staff. Should a natural or man-made disaster occur, IFLA will work with the nominated contacts for each collection and international agencies to provide assistance on the preservation and conservation of collections.

IFLA has been actively involved in the UNESCO PERSIST project, with its aim of finding policy solutions for long-term sustainable digital preservation. IFLA's past president Ingrid Parent chairs the content task force which is drafting Guidelines for the selection of digital content for long-term preservation. The taskforce would welcome receiving any best practice examples you have or know of.

IFLA participated in the drafting process for the Memory of the World UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including digital forms. The final version is expected in November 2015.

Over the past year IFLA has been implementing changes to our preservation and conservation structure. The Preservation and Conservation Centre network is working more closely together and participating more in our broader cultural heritage agenda. We have recently appointed a new Preservation and Conservation Centre in Sri Lanka National Library for pest control and tropical climates; and an Arabic PAC Centre at the Qatar National Library.

The Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting at Congress – this replaces the functions and responsibilities of a number of other committees.



Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Public access to information and ICTs
- Culture and cultural heritage, and
- Universal literacy



The final draft of Transforming our World: the 2030 [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) will be put before the UN Summit in September, and it is expected to be endorsed by Member States.

Through our observer status within the United Nations ECOSOC [Economic and Social Council] we have been representing the world's library sector and library users in the discussions within the UN for the 2015+ Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda is the UN discussions outcome document. We have also been working closely with many civil society organisations to include our positions in their representations. Our UN delegation has been led by our President-Elect Donna Scheeder.

We were not seeking to have the word 'library' included in the Goals – we understand well how these things work. Our advocacy was about what libraries contribute to their communities, to society, and how this will enhance the achievement of the Goals.

There are three main areas we have been advocating for as essential for sustainable development:

- Public access to information and ICTs
- Culture and cultural heritage
- Universal literacy

At the WLIC 2014 IFLA launched the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development. So far, more than 585 organisations from within and beyond the library sector, including local authorities, development agencies, media organisations, gender, ICT and education campaigners have signed. The Lyon Declaration is a substantive foundation document for our work on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Lyon Declaration signatories call upon the Member States of the United Nations to make an international commitment to use the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies, and in so doing improve peoples' lives.

IFLA is therefore very pleased to see that the final draft of *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* includes:

Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. [p.22]

IFLA has also worked for the recognition of culture in the SDGs. IFLA is a signatory and coalition partner of the Culture 2015 declaration. We have been represented at major Cultural Forums discussing the SDGs.

Why is recognition of culture so important for IFLA? We believe that culture is a basic need; that a community thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it. We have a strong cultural heritage programme. We know from the IFLA Trend Report that the evolving digital information environment offers great opportunities for library services for access to information and the creation of local content including local language content.

We are therefore pleased that the final draft of the 2030 Agenda acknowledges inter-cultural understanding and cultural diversity of the world and recognizes that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

Universal Literacy

If you cannot read or write you cannot fully participate in society. If you cannot understand what you read, you cannot fully exercise your democratic rights.

We believe that Universal Literacy is a starting point for achieving the outcomes of the Development Goals and targets. We are therefore delighted to see that the final draft includes in the Vision statement text envisaging a world with universal literacy.



Capacity building programmes

- Building Strong Library Associations programme
- International advocacy programme
- Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Fellows

Capacity building programmes

Our capacity building programmes continue to benefit our members and emerging leaders.

In the last year we are running 14 Building Strong Library Associations programme activities, in: Zimbabwe, Uganda, Swaziland, Botswana; Zambia, and regionally with AfLIA; Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar and a regional activity led by Brunei; Colombia, El Salvador and Peru. The activities include strategic planning, leadership development, advocacy workshops, governance reviews.

Our International advocacy programme commenced with a pilot in Africa. 21 African library leaders from 13 countries participated in a high level meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in July and produced a draft advocacy agenda through to 2026 that is being further discussed at Congress and in follow up meetings.

We work with the Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Fellows programme and are pleased that a number of Fellows are at this Congress and are actively involved in IFLA in various ways.



Information and knowledge

- Reading and literacy
- E-lending
- Text and data mining
- Internet governance
- Privacy and data protection
- Open access
- WIPO copyright exceptions and limitations
- Public access to the Internet
- IFLA standards and guidelines



Information and knowledge

We continue our representation, workshops, and development of support materials for our work to raise awareness of the significant role libraries play in the information and knowledge generation environment, and to secure good outcomes for library services within their communities. Priority areas include:

- Reading and literacy
- E-lending
- Text and data mining
- Internet governance
- Privacy and data protection
- Open access
- WIPO copyright exceptions and limitations
- Public access to the Internet
- IFLA standards and guidelines

The collective intellectual capital held within the membership of our professional units, and the participation of professional units, is critical to our success in all these areas, and others. You continue to be a unique international network for sharing information and ideas across and beyond our sector.

Membership

Our membership numbers have been stable over the year despite the economic pressures on your budgets. We know that for some associations this has been difficult as they themselves face pressures on retaining their members. Members are our heart, and we continue to work hard to retain members and recruit new members to increase our membership in all regions. IFLA is an inclusive organisation and we take care to find ways so that those who cannot afford to join IFLA, yet wish to participate, can do so.

As part of our Key Initiatives for 2015 – 2016 we are focussing on strengthening our regional presence and leadership, and increasing the participation of public libraries and librarians in national, regional and international representation.

Finally, my thanks

Madam President if I may borrow from your theme of 'Strong Libraries: strong societies' and say 'strong IFLA: strong voice for the library community: strong societies. Many people working together make IFLA strong. Our members, our

President, our Governing Board and committee members, our staff, and other organizations, all of whom believe in what IFLA is doing and the importance of access to information and knowledge through valued library services to improve people's lives.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to IFLA and your hard work. This is a great organization, made strong through the values we share as library professionals dedicated to improving the lives of others through providing good access to information and literacy and other skills so that people may fully participate in their society, and as the UN 2030 Agenda for development states we are working to ensure that "no-one will be left behind".

President, I present my final report as Secretary General to the Meeting and would be happy to answer any questions

Jennefer Nicholson

IFLA Secretary General