



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHECAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHEQUES
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG BIBLIOTHEKARISCHER VERBÄNDE UND EINRICHTUNGEN
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y BIBLIOTECAS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ АССОЦИАЦИЙ И УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ
国际图书馆协会与机构联合会
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات ومؤسسات المكتبات

Spreading Library Values through Global Dialogue— IFLA’s World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)

Libraries, and the services they offer, are built on values. IFLA, as the global voice of libraries, has always taken a strong position in favour of fundamental freedoms, and in promoting the principles of access, empowerment, and non-discrimination.

From the annual World Library and Information Congress to the day-to-day work of our members around the globe, the library community defends and promotes these principles. The literate, informed and participatory societies that we seek to create depend on free expression and access to information through high quality library services, open for all.

This is both a necessary, and an ongoing effort. We do not currently live in a world where our values are universally shared. But we are not powerless.

The World Library and Information Congress offers a unique opportunity to drive progress. Through bringing together the world’s library and information professionals for a free exchange of ideas, views and practices, it empowers our members in host countries and their wider regions. Ultimately, it is library users, from local communities to international institutions, who benefit from the knowledge, skills and passion that participants bring home with them.

When identifying venues for the Congress, IFLA is faced with a choice between a simple boycott and the chance to engage with progressive voices around the world in support of our values and services. IFLA will, where possible, seize the opportunity to promote constructive and productive dialogue, and maximise the possibilities for all to participate.

We do so, convinced that this is the greatest single contribution we can make to strengthening our community and its institutions. In the last ten years, we have brought our work and message to five different continents, making IFLA a reality for our members globally.

In selecting venues, and in subsequent planning, we work – and will continue to work – intensively with local organisers to obtain effective guarantees and reassurance that conference programmes are set freely and that attendees can engage in discussions without restrictions. Where such guarantees are not offered, there is no room for the constructive dialogue we seek to promote.

Outside of venues, we encourage participants to follow official travel advice. Even in countries where visitors are usually untroubled, the mere existence of discriminatory laws is deeply regrettable. When IFLA decides to hold a Congress in a country where such laws are in place it respects the decision of those who choose not to travel.

All who do attend, in person or virtually, will be able to join us in promoting libraries, their services and their values, building an ever stronger community in all parts of the world.