



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Welcome Remarks for ECIL 2017 Conference

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Hello. It is my pleasure to bring greetings from IFLA on behalf of Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, IFLA President, and Gerald Leitner, Executive Secretary. As the newly elected chair of the IFLA Information Literacy Section, it is a joy to celebrate our global information literacy community and the group gathered here for this European Conference on Information Literacy. I welcome any and all conversations here at this conference or afterwards by email about how the IFLA Information Literacy Section can best support the development of our global information literacy community of practice.

IFLA strategic plan includes a key activity to “expand and promote a framework for media and information literacies.” This is a golden moment to underline the importance of information literacy as the only sustainable way of preparing people for information abundance. As such, it also provides a powerful response to those who promote censorship or other restrictions on access to information.

It is also an opportunity to underline the continued, and indeed growing, value that libraries and information professionals bring to supporting and educating library users - and reaching out to non-users in order to promote societal inclusion. This expertise and experience is only more important in light of the continued digitalization of information resources and distributed access to these resources.

As part of the [Development and Access to Information report](#), launched at the United Nations in July this year, IFLA argued that access to information should be defined as including the skills necessary to use, apply, and recreate information, placing information literacy at the heart of its broader work on development and the UN’s sustainable development goals. This is work that will continue in the coming years as libraries must insist of full access to information – physical, digital, and intellectual.

A crucial task now is to be able to communicate the valuable work that is being done. How can we explain the concept of information literacy to all people in a way that they understand and can support?

This European Conference on Information Literacy is an opportunity for us to come together and learn from each other so that, when we return home, we can continue our work, strengthening our global information literacy community of practice so that we ensure that all people have the skills they need to be successful with information in their personal, vocational, and civic lives.

Thank you to the conference organizers and I wish you all a good conference.