**Updating the IFLA Intellectual Freedom Statement: A Survey**

The 1999 [IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom](https://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-statement-on-libraries-and-intellectual-freedom) has recently marked its 21st anniversary. The Statement highlights that a commitment to intellectual freedom - including access to information, freedom of expression and privacy - is key to the work of libraries.  
It calls on libraries and library staff actively to promote and protect these principles, and outlines the key elements of this commitment - from ensuring a wide availability of materials to user privacy and beyond.  
  
The FAIFE committee is examining how trends and developments that have emerged since 1999 have impacted the ability and role of libraries in promoting these principles. To inform the review, this survey invites libraries and library associations from around the world to share their experiences with defending and delivering on intellectual freedom commitments.  
  
**Please share your responses by 31 January**. If you need more time, please contact valensiya.dresvyannikova@ifla.org. Your responses are anonymous, and the survey is set up not to collect IP addresses or similar information. Your answers will be aggregated and used to produce a report, drawing on aggregated data, with no personally identifiable data shared. All data submitted will be handled in line with IFLA's [Data Protection Policy](https://www.ifla.org/data-protection-policy).  
  
Please note that the IFLA Journal and the FAIFE Committee announced a separate [call for abstracts](https://www.ifla.org/node/93513) for an upcoming Special Issue of the Journal. This calls for articles, essays and case studies examining the impacts of the Statement, and changes to the state of intellectual freedom and librarianship over the past 20 years. If you’d like to prepare a submission drawing on your insights and experiences, we encourage you to respond to the call!  
  
Thank you!

I consent to having my responses collected and stored.   
[https://www.ifla.org/data-protection-policy](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6079557/Updating-the-IFLA-Intellectual-Freedom-Statement-A-Survey) **\***

**About you**

1. In what capacity are you answering this survey?

Library association

National library

Academic or research library

Public library

School library

Other library

Individual

Other

Prefer not to say

2. From which world region are you answering?

Africa (Sub-Saharan)

Asia-Oceania

Europe (Council of Europe)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East and North Africa

North America

Prefer not to say

## **Awareness and Use of the IFLA Statement**

3. Were you aware of the IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom before today?

Yes

No

If yes: Have you used the Statement in your work, decision-making, or advocacy?

Yes

No

If yes: Could you please describe how you used the Statement, and what the outcome/impacts were?

4. Does your library (or a relevant library association or organisation in your area) have a current statement or policy document on intellectual freedom?

Yes

No

I don’t know

If yes: Could you share a link to the policy document, if it is available?

## **Intellectual Freedom Trends**

8. In your view, what key developments have impacted intellectual freedom at large over the last 20 years (e.g. political, economic, socio-cultural, technological or other changes)? Name as many as you like.

9. What, in your opinion, are the top three developments in the last 20 years that have influenced intellectual freedom at large?

1)

2)

3)

## **Impacts on Libraries**

10. How have these recent developments impacted your library’s ability and role (or that of other libraries in your area) to uphold/promote intellectual freedom?

11. Has your library taken any measures to address new developments around intellectual freedom? (E.g. everyday practices or standalone initiatives)

Yes

No

I don’t know

If yes: Could you please describe the measures?

12. In responding to recent intellectual freedom developments, what would you name as the top three priorities for your library?

1)

2)

3)

13. Consider the intellectual freedom developments you have described. Do you think there is a need to update/change the IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom to better reflect these?

Yes

No

I don’t know

If yes: What changes do you suggest to better reflect the new intellectual freedom trends?

If no/I don’t know: Please add any further details about your response here.

## **General Comments**

14. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on how IFLA can offer more help or practical guidance to libraries in dealing with new intellectual freedom challenges or trends - including both the Statement and additional IFLA materials?

Yes

No

If yes: please share your comments here.