

Definition

Within the context of IFLA, KM is defined as

“ ... a process of creating (generating, capturing), storing (preserving, organizing, integrating), sharing (communicating), applying (implementing), and re-using (transforming) organisational knowledge to enable an organisation to achieve its goals and objectives. KM is extending the concept of ‘knowledge’ beyond existing concepts like ‘memory’, ‘storage’, and ‘information.’ The term ‘knowledge’ is not limited to published information; it also covers such areas as tacit knowledge (expertise), implicit knowledge, explicit knowledge, and procedural knowledge.”

*Photo Credits:
Agnes Hajdu Barat*

History

The Knowledge Management (KM) Section was established in December 2003 as a unit of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Who we are

The Section is managed in accordance with the IFLA rules and procedures. The KM Standing Committee Officers for 2013-2015 are:

Chair/Treasurer: Leda Bultrini
leda.bultrini@arpalazio.it

Secretary: Mary Augusta Thomas
thomasm@si.edu

Information Coordinator/Newsletter Editor:
Wilda B. Newman
wildanewman@yahoo.com

A full list of committee members may be found at
www.ifla.org/km/standing-committee.

IFLA



Knowledge Management Section



The Global Voice of KM

Mission

The IFLA KM section seeks to:

- foster a deeper understanding of KM's dimensions and its relevance to the library and information environment.
- monitor current developments in KM and promotes its practical implementation within the IFLA community.
- provide theoretical and practical knowledge in areas of KM such as:
 - knowledge sharing;
 - performance measures; and
 - value-oriented frameworks.
- explore pros and cons of KM implementation.
- provide an international platform for professional communication and understanding of KM's significance for librarians and their institutions.
- support the implementation of KM culture in information environments including libraries.
- facilitate the application of KM in libraries by developing a program of activities that supports information professionals in their effort to implement KM in their own organizations.
- enhance the KM skills of librarians by:
 - using interactive communication to strengthen knowledge sharing;
 - using information technology to convert knowledge into information for use; and
 - support the aid in knowledge retention / preservation.



Activities

KM encompasses many dimensions of organisational management and the activities of the Section are intended to reflect the many dimensions of KM by providing a broad platform of integrated activities, through working co-operatively with other IFLA sections and divisions, and with appropriate professional organisations.

The KM Section aims to:

- work collaboratively with other IFLA sections to develop sessions and programmes that focus on various aspects of KM and explore areas of mutual interest e.g., education and training; professional development; KM theories and methodologies; intercultural communication; organisational development; IT and media.
- investigate how professional associations influence and support the implementation of KM information environments including libraries.
- share “best practice” examples and case studies to make KM applicable to a wide range of information professionals in libraries and information centres worldwide.
- maintain communication tools taking into account (but not limited to) our website and Action plan.
- publish a twice yearly newsletter.
- hold workshops and satellite meetings focusing on themes related to or specific aspects of KM.

Join

Why you should join:

- to learn about “Knowledge Management.”
- to share your expertise on KM.
- to support IFLA in promoting KM.
- to access global KM discussions.
- to participate in and contribute to the development and advancement of KM.

How you can join:

The KM Section encourages and welcomes everybody to participate in and contribute to the work of the Section and to provide creative ideas and suggestions that will further develop its mission and work.

To become a member of IFLA and the KM Section, please complete and submit an application form to the IFLA headquarters. Forms and membership information are available on IFLA ANET www.ifla.org.

Where you can follow us:

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and visit our blog at blogs.ifla.org/km