



GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the SC Subject Analysis and Access meeting

*How a united library field can tackle the
challenges of the future*

8 June, 2017

Online meeting

Contributors

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Introduction

On 8 June 2017, 6 librarians participated in a Zoom conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent about 122 years of library experience.

A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to the debates, this means that libraries are balanced, honest; safe havens; places of intellectual freedom and advocacy; information centres; important for preserving cultural heritage for our society; trusted sources of information, and available to anyone.

E.g. Libraries are an accessible source of factual information, where people come to find the truth. Libraries are inclusive community centres where all voices are represented. To make this vision a reality, librarians feel part of a global community where they exchange ideas and help each other overcome challenges.

The core values of libraries (Q4):

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1. trusted source of information
 2. intellectual freedom
 3. support for literacy, democratic society, for education
 4. openness
 5. intellectual balance
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Comments:

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

-
1. cooperation
 2. openness
 3. being friendly to users
 4. supporting users
 - 5.
-

Comments:

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

-
1. cooperation
 2. being open to all
 3. resource sharing
 4. being competent
-

5. being confident

Comments:

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. whining and complaining
 2. redundant activities
 3. fearing and resisting change
 4. being insular
 5. second guessing our users' needs and expectations
-

Comments:

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. polarization
 2. inequality
 3. fear mongering
 4. digital divide
 5. failure of democracy
-

Comments:

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. lack of funding
 2. lack of political support
 3. preservation of cultural resources from degradation and destruction from events such as wars in parts of the world
 4. governmental interference
 5. staying relevant
-

Comments:

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. keeping current with technology
2. visibility of the profession
3. doing more with less
4. flexibility to evolve
5. managing legal issues

Comments:

How a united library field can make a difference

How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

1. awareness of tools developed by others
2. lobby for funding
3. strong professional organisations
4. networking
- 5.

Comments:

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1. A field that shares resources; cooperates
2. shows unity but also diversity
3. has shared values
4. has shared goals
- 5.

Comments:

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1. maximizing cooperation between libraries
2. networking
3. developing standards and guidelines
4. maintaining and upholding a high level of professionalism
5. advocacy

Comments:

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process on 18 June 2017. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. At the end of 2017, the first results of all the workshops and online discussions will be turned into a *Global Vision Report*, which in turn will be adapted into concrete strategies, processes and work programmes in 2018.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit globalvision.ifla.org.

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following [#iflaGlobalVision](https://twitter.com/iflaGlobalVision) and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on <https://globalvision.ifla.org/>.