



GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the RSCAO meeting

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

June-Aug 2017 (Through Basecamp)

Contributors

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Introduction

From 15th June to 10th August 2017, through Basecamp 9 librarians participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 30 years of library experience.

Librarians are from Public, National, Government, University, Open University and Retired Librarians, etc .

A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to the debates in RSCAO, this means that the role of libraries will not only focus on provision of access to information but as an information centre of inclusive e-government services to people from all walks of life. The libraries would be a common space for community for learning, accessing, sharing, experiencing and creating knowledge. Libraries will not die though the role of libraries will be changed considerably. Libraries should have vision of converting its challenges to opportunities .

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1. *Free /equitable access to knowledge and information*
 2. *Non formal education*
 3. *Preserver of knowledge*
 4. *Dissemination of authentic information*
 5. *Access to qualified professionals*
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Comments:

The core value of libraries are Access, Preservation, Education, Lifelong learning and dissemination of information

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1. *Resource building*
 2. *Dealing with different kind of information seekers/ Diversity*
 3. *Customer services*
 4. *Knowledge organisation*
 5. *User education*
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Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1. *Community Engagement*
2. *Services with new technology*
3. *Networking and Capacity building*
4. *Empowering users/Empowering Literacies*
5. *Public Services*
6. *Focus on core business*

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. *Discontinue services that others do better than us*
2. *Lesser strict rules and policies*
3. *Guidelines that hinder access to knowledge and information*
- 4.
- 5.

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. *Lack of accessibility of libraries*
2. *Poverty*
3. *Political and socio –economic instability*
4. *Digital Divide*
5. *Corruption*
6. *Sustainable development*

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. *Adapting to change*
2. *Suitable workforce*
3. *Political interference*
4. *How to make them first think of librarian first and Google second*
5. *Budget/Financial Resources*

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. *Society's perception particularly policy makers'*
2. *Lack of appreciation*
3. *Opportunities to develop professional skills/ Keeping up to date*
4. *Changing role of Librarian*
5. *Professionalism among Librarians*

How a united library field can make a difference

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

1. *Make policy makers aware about libraries*
2. *Conversations with the patrons effectively*
3. *Collaborations and Consensus Building among patrons*
4. *Make Libraries as essential services like Water and Electricity*
5. *Continued development of library programmes*

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1. *Sustainable Library programmes*
2. *Common Library Vision and Mission*
3. *Collaboration among libraries*
4. *Transparency*
5. *Strong Library Associations and Institutions*

Comments:

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1. *Advocacy for educating communities*
 2. *Networking among Libraries*
 3. *Creating an Understanding among Libraries*
 4. *Sustainable Library Services*
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5. Services to citizens and not only members

Comments:

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process through basecamp from June to August 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/>.