



GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the IFLA Science & Technology

Library Section Feedback

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

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Contributors

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Survey with answers from 10 current or former committee members of the Science & Technology Library Section of IFLA.

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Introduction

On June 19 2017, an email survey was done. 10 librarians answered how, in their opinion, a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 246 years of library and 76 years of IFLA experience.

All rankings are not the result of discussion, but rather created by the number of the positive survey responses and by building clusters.

A vision for libraries

The core values of libraries (Q4):

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1. *Access to Information*
 2. *Equal access/equitable services to all – inclusion*
 3. *Public Good*
Conservation & preservation (of data, too)
 4. *Promoting Openness (to information/knowledge generation/space/ Information Literacy)*
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Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

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1. *Welcoming, inviting, friendly environment*
 2. *Providing services needed by users*
 3. *Selecting, managing, organizing & preserving information*
 4. *Providing social good – community engagement*
Preserving information
Integrating services with collections
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Comments:

Last three answers have equal numbers of mentions

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

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1. *More intense marketing of library services & resources*
 2. *Advocate for better understanding of changing role of library & librarians, digital environment –*
 3. *Develop stronger partnerships with external communities/players*
 4. *Advocate for more open access content*
 5. *Seeker greater funding*
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Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. *More intense marketing of library services & resources*

2. *Be so dominated by procedures*

Use & rely on library lingo, technical expressions

Focusing on the negative or expensive challenges

3. *Cataloging*

Be resistant to change

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. *Health, social & economic disparities*

2. *Environmental issues: global warming, climate change, food, water, sustainability*

3. *Intolerance*

Celebrating diversity: religion, social/cultural norms

4. *Freedom of speech*

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. *Attracting to & retaining diverse, talented & trained staff in profession*

2. *Changing role of publishing & scholarship-*

Global inequities for technology, connectivity, literacy

Ongoing funding for library services/collections

Keeping up with changing technologies & needs of data

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. *Staying current with changing technologies & trends – need for ongoing training*

2. *Distinguishing between environmental, institutional, organizational and library priorities – external/internal pull*

Having insufficient resources – human, materials, new technologies, financial

3. *Guiding ongoing transition from print-based to digital library*

4. *Need for strong library associations at local to national levels*

A global conversation

This report was created from a survey process. 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>.