

Dear Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very honored to be invited by the IFLA and FOBID to address a few words to you.

Let me start to welcome you to the Netherlands and to The Hague, beautiful seat of the Dutch government and soon, as you can read in the programme of this meeting, it could call itself “The Hague - World Library Capital” (although in fact “The Hague – World Library Capital” is an international network of libraries). The Hague is an international city, not only in the area of peace and justice, but also in the field of libraries. Nowhere else as in this city many international library organizations have a residence. Think of IFLA, EBLIDA, LIBER and Europeana. And, of course, we must not forget the Royal Library, a truly innovative institution. Libraries are driving forces behind the knowledge society. They have had this role in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Their goal will always be to provide access to information for every citizen in the world. Libraries are spaces where people not only can read books, but also share information and use the content of the libraries for learning and research.

Digitizing offers libraries many opportunities and libraries are starting to adapt to the digital age and to offer their customers new forms of access to digitized content. IFLA monitors the development of the library branch all over the world and promotes the development of policies regarding libraries and their role in society. A very useful help for people like me, who try to develop such policies.

The agenda of today and tomorrow focuses on three issues which are very important to libraries all over the world, but not only for libraries; no, for every world citizen:

- Access to information as a human right
- Copyright and
- Open Access and the changing role of libraries

Let me start with the first issue:

Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights says:

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. But also:
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

So, the first as well as the second topic of this conference is worded in this article of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights. It is a human right, but for most people in the world not a free right. And the greater part of the world population simply does not have the money to pay for the information they would like to get, day in day out. Here is where the governments and the libraries have to step in: they can play an important role in giving or furthering free access to at least all the information they have either paid for themselves or is out of copy right. Numerous UNESCO declarations identify and stress the important role libraries can play in this respect. The public library manifestos are just an example.

It is clear that today online access to cultural or scientific information has become common place. Mobile communication across the world is routine and what's even more important: people want reliable information as quick as possible and as cheap as possible. Like the late Queens' singer Freddy Mercury says in his song “I want it all and I want it now”. If this is a fact, it is also clear that libraries cannot confine any longer their services to simply lending out printed books. Today people already tend to use the services of

Google to get their information on specific topics and no longer go to the library to get their information. If libraries want to offer their customers as much information and as quick as possible, the way to do that in this age is using the internet. So: digitization is today's magic word. Not only in the scientific world, but also in the cultural.

The past decade shows that digitization triggers off a real paradigm shift across the whole library sector. It calls for redefining core functions of libraries – for public libraries perhaps even more so than for academic libraries. Digitization also urges other players in the 'information arena' to realign their roles. In the wake of this, institutional arrangements and legislation have to be adapted. In the Netherlands – just an 'arbitrary' example - new legislation for public libraries is being drawn up.

Digitization also calls for co-operation between the various library sectors. To define new infrastructures for serving the knowledge society. To pool resources. And to negotiate cheaper licenses from publishers. It is my profound believe that co-operation is the key to future success. Therefore I call on all librarians to close ranks, both on the national and international level.

I am sure that Mr. Karklins agrees with me on this topic and will give you UNESCO's view on access to information as a human right.

That brings me to the second and also the third topic of this conference:

The copyright issue. Copyright is also part of article 27. The rights of the author of a scientific or cultural work have to be protected while at the same time the access to the work has to be optimized and be as free and cheap as possible so that every world citizen can read, view or hear the information he or she is interested in. This is essential for the education of the world population. At the moment copyright, as it is in force today, can be an obstacle to reach this goal and I believe that a copyright reform will be needed to unlock the possibilities that digitization has to offer the world. Therefore we support initiatives of the European Commission to facilitate copyright reform across the European Union. And I am also very pleased with initiatives which try to deal with the problem of the orphaned works. A good example of such an initiative is ARROW (Accessible Registries of Rights Information and Orphan Works towards Europeana) a tool developed jointly by libraries, copyright holders and collective management organizations to facilitate information management in projects to digitize and make available cultural heritage to the public. To put it easy: ARROW helps you to identify right holders, rights and clarifies the rights status of a work, including whether it is orphan or out of print and facilitates so the clearance of rights to digitize and make copyright works available to the public and that is what we all want and try to reach. The tool was launched by Mrs. Kroes on 10 March in Brussels and I really hope it will make the heavy task of digitizing easier, especially for the libraries.

As for the third item on the agenda: "Open Access and the changing role of libraries" I can only say that the subject of Open Access to scholarly information, meaning scientific publications and research data, has always been high on the agenda of the higher education and research institutions in the Netherlands and it has my special attention as well. Because: good access to knowledge, information, and data is essential in higher education and research, and it still can be greatly improved. The almost complete digitising of research results and digital publication in the last decades represents a fundamental shift away from the "age of paper". Improved access is the basis for the transfer of knowledge (teaching), knowledge generation (research), and knowledge valorisation (societal and economical impact). The central idea is that the results of publicly financed research should also be available to the public. Free or as cheap as possible. All Dutch universities already offer the possibility to their scientists to archive publications in the institution's own open access archives. And most publishers nowadays allow the deposit of the final peer reviewed version in

the author's layout in an open access archive. Furthermore the Association of Universities in the Netherlands and the Association of University Libraries, and Springer agreed with each other that all articles from Dutch university researchers in Springer journals will be available in Open Access with the approval of the author. Basically there are two roads towards Open Access publishing. In "the Green Road" authors publish in journals and then self-archive or deposit their articles in archives. In the Golden Road the journal itself is an Open Access journal. Authors pay for the peer review process of the Open Access journal and readers get free access. Some publishers, for example Springer, offer a hybrid model. In this model articles can be published in Open Access mode in a traditional subscription based journal. When the number of Open Access articles grows, the price of the journal falls.

In the agreement between the UKB consortium and Springer the author fee for Open Access publishing in Springer journals is waived for the time of the agreement, just to see if the researchers are getting interested in publishing in Open Access journals. It will be the responsibility of the university libraries to inform the researchers about the possibility of publishing in Open Access as for now they are not very interested. The most important point for them is to be accepted to publish in high ranking journals and at the moment often that will not be an Open Access journal although this is changing fast. In all disciplines Open Access journals have been started and in the Netherlands NWO, the Dutch Research Council, supports financially researchers who want to start an Open Access journal.

I support the Open Access model for scientific publishing, because it stimulates widespread use and re-use of scientific information. Scientists profit from Open Access because their publications become more visible and visibility contributes to the impact of the article.

The Royal Library and Elsevier have also got together and have started a pilot in order to find out how access to research output can be broadened. In this pilot called "National Access" the public libraries will also play a role and maybe later on in this session mr. Savenije will tell you more about this pilot project.

All in all it is clear that in the scientific world the scientific publishers are more and more willing to try out different publishing models which further Open Access as the campaign for Open Access to research results is steadily gaining in support throughout the world. The European Commission, for example, aims to make publishing of the results of the research projects in the next Framework Programme conditional for funding in the Framework programme. The NIH, the Wellcome Foundation, and the Volkswagen Stiftung already have made publishing in Open Access conditional for getting research grants.

In this last session you will discuss the changing role of libraries, university libraries as well as public libraries, in view of the education, research and development policies in Europe which are adapting to the fast digitisation of the world.

I hope that both types of libraries can learn from each other and together can find solutions to problems like how to tackle copyright issues and how to build a digital infrastructure for publications as well as for data.

In the end we all share the same ambition: access for every world citizen to all information needed and where ever you live in this world. It is our right, our human right.

Thank you!

**Renk Roborgh**

Director General Higher Education, Vocational Education, Science and Emancipation,  
Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science