



GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the SC Statistics and Evaluation meeting

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

August 22nd, 2017



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Introduction

On August 23rd 2017, in Wroclaw, Poland, 17 librarians participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 260 years of library experience from public and academic libraries.

A vision for libraries

Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to the debates in Wroclaw, this means that libraries build bridges, between people, communities, knowledge.

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1. *Accessibility*

2. *Responsibility*

3. *Equality*

4. *Diversity*

5. *Preservation*

Comments:

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1. *Making resources available*

2. *Data management*

3. *Cooperation/ Collaboration*

4. *Quality of information*

5. *Statistics*

Comments:

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1. *Communication/ Marketing*

2. *Fundraising*

3. *Assessment/ Qualitative data/ Fact based advocacy*

4. *Digitization*

5. *Build more libraries*

Comments:

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. *Paperwork*

2. *Replication*

3. *Copy cataloguing*

4. *Fear change*

5. *Complaining*

Comments:

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. *Terrorism*

2. *Uncertainty*

3. *Inequity, poverty*

4. *Global warming*

5. *Isolation*

Comments:

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. *Funding*

2. *Changing reading habits*

3. *Technology*

4. *Being visible*

5. *Staying relevant*

Comments:

The main professional challenges (Q10):

1. *Shrinking staff*

2. *Resistance to change*

3. *Professional development (finding time and money)*

4. *IT skills*

5. *Gaining interdisciplinary skills*

Comments:

How a united library field can make a difference

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

1. *Collaboration*

2. *Advocacy*

3. *Visibility*

4. *Strong leadership*

Comments:

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process, in Wroclaw on August 22nd, 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/>.