

IFLA Annual Report 2021

IFLA – the global voice of the library and information profession

IFLA puts libraries on the global stage and helps them develop. We are the global voice and represent the brightest minds of the library and information profession, with an **active network of over 1400 Members – leading institutions and players in the library field – in over 130 countries** around the world and well-established relations with the United Nations and other international organisations. Together with our Members we work to set the professional agenda and develop standards for library services, to improve access to information and cultural heritage resources, and to advocate for the place of libraries at the heart of local and global policies.

Vision

A strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies

Mission

To inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library field

Core Values

In pursuing these aims IFLA embraces the following four core values:

1. the endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in *Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
2. the belief that people, communities and organizations need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being
3. the conviction that delivery of high-quality library and information services helps guarantee that access
4. the commitment to enable all Members of the Federation to engage in, and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, disability, ethnic origin, gender, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race or religion

Aims

IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation. Our aims are to:

- Promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services
- Encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services
- Represent the interests of our members throughout the world.

Relations with Other Bodies

We have established good working relations with a variety of other bodies with similar interests, providing an opportunity for a regular exchange of information and views on issues of mutual concern. We have Formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Science Council (ISC) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

In turn, we have strong ongoing connections with a number of non-governmental organisations operating in related fields, including the International Publishers Association (IPA), International Council on Archives (ICA), International Council on Museums (ICOM) and others. We are also members of Blue Shield International (BSI).

Sections and Special Interest Groups

Members and professionals work together through IFLA's 42 Sections and 11 Special Interest Groups to further the development of the profession. Sections specialise in a particular type of library and information service, an aspect of library and information science, or in a geographical region. Sections cover topics ranging from academic libraries to association management. Special Interest Groups enable discussions of professional issues that cut across library sectors, such as, Big Data, and national information policy.

Regional activities, Language Centres and Headquarters

IFLA has six Regional Division Committees, which work to strengthen the voice of regions within IFLA, and the reach of IFLA within regions – Asia-Oceania, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Three Regional Offices in South Africa, Singapore, and Argentina both work with the relevant committees, as well as providing wider support to IFLA membership. IFLA also has Language Centres whose role is to contribute to more effective communication within the relevant language communities (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish) and with the IFLA bodies involved. IFLA's Headquarters is located in The Hague, The Netherlands.

IFLA's Advisory Committees

IFLA's Advisory Committees support the continuation of our advocacy and development goals in areas such as access to digital content, copyright limitations and exceptions, freedom of access to information, libraries and development, cultural heritage, and library standards.

2021 in action – an Introduction

2021 was above all a year of delivery for IFLA on behalf of its members, in the context of ongoing unpredictability and hardship caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Building on the resilience and innovation that carried us – and the library field as a whole – through the first year of the pandemic, it was a time not just to look to the future, but to start to make it happen.

IFLA has, over recent years, been in a process of profound transformation. We have worked to clarify our focus, extend our reach, and modernise the ways in which we work. We have built on the contributions of library and information professionals all around the world in order to create a new Federation.

The past year saw key elements of this work come to fruition. IFLA at the end of 2021 is a more effective, inclusive and transparent organisation than at the beginning, to the benefit of our Members, and of the library field as a whole.

In the intervening months, we – our volunteers, and in particular the Governing Board, led by Christine Mackenzie and then Barbara Lison, supported by our Headquarters team led by the Secretary General Gerald Leitner – have achieved much to realise our vision of a strong and united library field, powering literate, informed and participatory societies.

In this introduction, we hope to give you an overview of just some of the highlights of the year. Please read on in this report to find out more!

Harvesting the fruits of long-term investments

A key moment in IFLA's history already came in the first weeks of the year, with the Extraordinary General Assembly that approved changes in IFLA's governance by an overwhelming majority.

Readers of last year's annual report will be familiar with the content of these changes, which focused on improving regional representation, providing stronger support to volunteers, making it easier to understand our organisation, promoting financial sustainability, and improving decision-making.

These changes, which formally came into effect in August 2021, were the result of IFLA's Governance Review, a process already launched two years earlier, immediately after our Athens World Library and Information Congress. They represent the final key pillar of IFLA's transformation, building on our Global Vision and Strategy 2019-2024.

Many readers of this report will themselves have helped shape the Governance Review, in particular through the rounds of consultation that took place in order to ensure that we were listening effectively to our members and volunteers.

Thanks to this work, crucially, we now have the structures necessary to deliver, inclusively, effectively and transparently, on the ambition of our Strategy, and so on our Vision. We have new regional structures, a smaller and more streamlined Governing Board, better support for our professional units, and more.

Of course, structures are only as good as the individual and collective initiatives that they enable. In turn, these are most impactful when we have the right platform to disseminate and celebrate this work. Thanks to our new website, this is now the case.

Reflecting the breadth and energy of the Federation as a whole, the modernisation of IFLA's website represented a major project over a number of years, relying strongly again on the contribution of our volunteers. It has required profound change, including the creation of a new IFLA Repository, and is by no means complete, with further improvements being made continuously. Nonetheless, we now have a platform that does justice to the excellent work undertaken throughout IFLA's volunteer community and beyond – make sure to bookmark it if you have not already!

Continuity in times of crisis

The continuation of COVID-19 into 2021 meant that IFLA, like the library field as a whole, needed to draw on all of its resources of resilience and inventiveness in order to deliver.

While the pandemic continued to keep us from meeting in person, the need to get together, to exchange, and to learn was as pressing as ever. As a result, IFLA's World Library and Information Congress returned in 2021, held for the first time ever in virtual format.

All efforts were made to make the event as inclusive as possible, from exceptionally low ticket pricing to scheduling that mirrored different working times around the world, and shorter, dynamic sessions. Our Professional Units, drawing on their growing experience of webinars, rose to the challenge of the new format, producing an exceptional set of exciting and engaging discussions, alongside traditional highlights such as our President and President-elect's sessions.

Importantly, holding the Congress digitally offered exciting opportunities to test new formats and ideas, providing valuable insights for the future.

The second year of the pandemic also coincided with a key moment in the life of our Federation – our biennial elections process. This is a crucial moment. We depend on IFLA's membership both to nominate, and then vote for the dynamic and insightful candidates who will take up key roles across our Federation. These include our President-elect, Treasurer, wider Governing Board, and members of IFLA's many different volunteer committees, including for the first time, our Regional Division Committees and Regional Council, the result of the Governance Reforms highlighted above.

Here too, IFLA for the first time turned to digital tools in order to maximise possibilities for participation. Despite a shorter time for nominations and voting than in previous years, we received an overwhelming response, with a record number of open elections taking place. This is a strong signal that, despite the upheaval and disruption of COVID, IFLA continues to benefit from a committed and vibrant membership – a key precondition for our future success.

A promise for the future

As already mentioned above, IFLA's ability to deliver into the future depends not only on the right structures, but also the energy, ideas and dedication that those who fill them bring. We are fortunate to be able to draw on both, meaning that IFLA will go into 2022 with optimism.

In particular, we have welcomed a new Governing Board, led by IFLA's President 2021-23, Barbara Lison, with Antonia Arahova elected as President-elect. For the first time, too, we have a directly elected Treasurer, Perry Moree.

Of course, the start of a new Board means the end of an old one. We therefore said farewell to our Governing Board 2019-21, and in particular, our now-former president, Christine Mackenzie, who led our Federation through difficult times with great strength and warmth.

Having taken up their roles in August, IFLA's new volunteers immediately started work to develop action plans setting out the key steps that they can take to deliver for the field as a whole, drawing on the expertise of their members. Building on the experience of the previous mandate, and the potential of our new website to showcase their

work, the coming year promises to be one of engaging events and other outputs that make a real difference to the life of our field.

We are looking forward, in particular, to meeting again at our first in-person World Library and Information Congress in Dublin, as well as starting to deliver on the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme, the result of the generosity of the Arcadia Fund to Stichting IFLA Foundation, that will build capacity for copyright advocacy among libraries.

As a result of the work of our volunteers, our Members, and our staff, IFLA can once again look back on a successful year, and look forward to a new one full of promise. Thank you to all those who make our Federation what it is.

We are IFLA!

IFLA in Action 2021: Strategic Directions

Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

The need for libraries to speak out and speak up is as great as ever as the world continues to deal with the consequences of COVID. If the potential of libraries as drivers of strong, inclusive and sustainable development is to be realised, we need to be able to articulate the value and importance of the work we do and the collections we hold, to funders, partners, and communities.

IFLA has a key role, both in representing libraries at the international level, and in supporting the work of our Members in their own advocacy. To do this, we engage closely in the most relevant international processes, ensuring that the perspective of our institutions and professions is heard, and our strengths and needs reflected in ongoing work.

We focus strongly on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a roadmap for development to 2030. 2021 was a record year for the inclusion of libraries in national reporting on SDG implementation at the UN's High-Level Political Forum, underlining growing recognition of our institutions as partners for development. In parallel, through our work as a founding member of the Culture 2030 Goal campaign, we have reached new audiences with the message that culture – including libraries – should be at the start and the heart of development policy making.

Our relationship with UNESCO is a crucial one, and has gone from strength to strength in 2021, with close engagement around the revised IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (due for finalisation in 2022), the revised UNESCO PERSIST Content Selection Guidelines, and with taking a leading role in events around the Convention of the Parties of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on Cultural Diversity. At the World Intellectual Property Organization, we worked closely alongside partners in making the case for practical changes to copyright laws for libraries, as well as supporting national advocacy, in particular around Controlled Digital Lending.

We have also seen growing recognition of IFLA in the internet governance space, with proactive invitations to take part in core sessions of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, and a strong ongoing engagement at the Internet Governance Forum. In this context, IFLA has taken a leading role in producing new reporting on the impact of public internet access in libraries, as well as on the place of libraries in broadband strategies.

2021 also saw IFLA engage in new areas for advocacy, including participation in multiple events at COP26 in Glasgow, preparations for the G20 Culture Ministers' meeting, and the U20 meeting of world mayors. In particular, we have invested in stronger links with local government organisations, especially through the UCLG Culture Summit in September, given the key role of local authorities in taking decisions about the future of libraries.

The launch of our Regional Division Committees (RDCs) in August offers a key new perspective. Following a record year for engagement in regional sustainable development fora in 2021, we are in a position to do much more in 2022. One major support for this is the first IFLA Regional Advocacy Priorities study. This provided invaluable insights into the key issues for libraries in different parts of the world, both in terms of policies, and skills development. See the report on Strategic Direction 3 – connect and enable the field – for more!

Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

At the heart of IFLA's work is its role as a dynamic platform where professionals from around the world come together in order to share ideas and experience, and to develop the standards, guidelines, reports and tools that enable libraries everywhere to improve practice.

Key to IFLA's Governance Review, as implemented in 2021, was the goal of giving more support to IFLA volunteers in this work, alongside our continued efforts to excite and inspire the wider field. In times of uncertainty and change, this represents a major contribution to achieving our vision of a strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participatory societies.

Since its launch four years ago, the Library Map of the World continues to add new countries and data, further realising its potential to build understanding of the strength of our field, and the contribution it can make. New SDG Stories have been added, giving concrete examples of libraries helping to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, more and more countries now have a Country Profile, offering an expert overview of the shape of the library field, the laws they work with, the priorities they have, and the key organisations at work.

In parallel with this, IFLA continues its work to publish research into how libraries are supporting development more broadly, both as a tool for advocacy, and to spread ideas and good practice.

A key highlight of 2021 was the launch of IFLA's new website, bringing a fresh and exciting new look and feel to our web presence. Built with a strong focus on the needs both of IFLA volunteers, and of newcomers to our Federation, it offers a much more attractive platform for giving access to the work of all those contributing their time and effort.

The new website has also been the keystone for other changes to the way we share information, not least the new IFLA repository, and ongoing work to simplify Members' experience in working with IFLA. Further services and features will continue to be added into 2022.

The work of IFLA's many Committees – Sections, Special Interest Groups, Advisory Committees and more – has also continued strongly, with the change of mandate in August 2021 an opportunity to assess priorities and plan for the future. Key to the action plans of many of IFLA's volunteer groups is the preparation of documents which can serve to inform and inspire the field.

2021 saw a number of new IFLA Standards in development, as well as the 2nd edition of the UNESCO PERSIST Content Selection Guidelines, the result of a process led by IFLA and UNESCO.

2021 also saw the full implementation of the Namespaces programme, which is already facilitating the work of librarians around the world with IFLA standards. There have also been important updates to the resources offered around the IFLA Risk Register, with a view to giving stronger support to libraries in their work to safeguard heritage.

Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

IFLA provides an essential meeting place for library and information workers from around the world, creating opportunities to build both professional and personal contacts. Through this, it offers important learning opportunities, ranging from formal webinars and training to simple conversations and exchanges which help share new perspectives and insights. Increasingly, our focus is on tailoring this offer to the needs of each world region.

2021 saw the return of IFLA's World Library and Information Congress, held for the first time virtually. Designed in a way to be as inclusive as possible, with content organised at different times to suit different parts of the world, as well as exceptionally low registration costs, the event helped rekindle old connections and develop new ones. For more on this, see the dedicated section on WLIC.

The year also saw IFLA's volunteer units – our Sections, Special Interest Groups, Advisory Committees and more – continue to intensify their work to organise and produce virtual events covering their areas of expertise. With strong support from IFLA's Headquarters, we have been able to run a regular series of events providing further opportunities for professionals to meet and learn from each other.

In addition to virtual events, volunteer groups have been holding open online meetings, allowing a wider range of colleagues globally to get a taste of IFLA's work, as well as to get to know the dedicated people who are leading it.

A key development in 2021 was the creation of IFLA's Regional Divisions, the result of the Governance Reform that took effect in August. With it, IFLA's pre-existing regional sections were elevated to become Divisions, led by Regional Division Committees, and joined by new equivalents for the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, and North America regions. Their work is overseen by IFLA's new Regional Council, whose chair sits on the Governing Board, mirroring the situation of the Professional Council.

These groups have already been hard at work developing action plans covering advocacy and outreach, delivering on the undertaking in IFLA's Global Vision to ensure that the Federation's work responds effectively to regional needs. In parallel, IFLA's regional offices and language centres have continued to support Members and the wider field and will play an invaluable role in delivering on the goal of a more regionally responsive IFLA.

2021 was also a year of further development of IFLA's offer of support around storytelling, with workshops and presentations offered to help build capacity. In parallel, we have also worked to promote the IFLA Strategy as both a guide and a tool for developing stronger strategies at the national and regional levels and have continued to celebrate successes in this regard through our IFLA From Home series of articles and posts.

Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

In order for IFLA to be able to deliver on its Strategy, and so on the Vision and Mission that underpin it, it is essential to maintain a focus on our own fitness for the future. As highlighted by IFLA President Barbara Lison, who took up her role in August, a sustainable IFLA is a key step towards a sustainable library field, and in turn, sustainable communities.

This sustainability is not only about finances, but also about our ability to engage the widest possible range of Members and volunteers in our work, to make the most of the resources that we have, and to communicate effectively, both with professionals in our field, and beyond.

2021 was therefore the year that IFLA welcomed its first directly elected Treasurer, Perry Moree, as a member of the Governing Board led by incoming President Barbara Lison. This represents a key recognition of the importance of this role in ensuring IFLA's future, in particular in times of financial uncertainty for many.

The Federation continues to benefit from the generosity of the Bill and Melinda Gates' Foundation, enabling us to deepen and strengthen our activities and outreach, not least through initiatives such as the Library Map of the World. In addition, we have explored new opportunities, including through European Union funding for work on media literacy, and as a partner in the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme focused on strengthening copyright advocacy capacity, thanks to the generosity of the Arcadia Fund.

Alongside a directly elected Treasurer, other consequences of the implementation of our Governance Review have included steps to bring us closer to Members and volunteers, and to support them more effectively. Our new Professional Division structure means that there is more help available for volunteer groups, while our Regional Division Committees have an explicit mandate to reach out to and work with libraries in different parts of the world. Already in 2021, the impacts of these changes started to become clear.

IFLA's Headquarters continued its own work to further the Federation's goals, through supporting volunteers, managing membership, coordinating work around the Library Map of the World, taking the lead in global advocacy, and developing new and powerful communications. The last point is a particular significant one, with the launch of IFLA's new website a key highlight of the year, as already highlighted in the report on Strategic Direction 2.

However, IFLA's communications work has been far broader than this, with key highlights including the further development of our social media presence, in particular on Instagram and LinkedIn, as well as the launch of the

monthly *IFLA Newsletter* in October 2021. This provides an overview of the Federation’s work, both informing existing Members, and offering a snapshot to potential Members and anyone with an interest in the work of libraries more broadly.

Professional Units

42 Sections

11 Special Interest Groups

1000+ Experts

“Together, we can build a strong and united library field, powering literate, informed and participatory societies.”

IFLA’s Professional Units bring the brightest minds in the global Library and Information Science field together to address issues relevant to libraries and library and information professionals. These international, diverse, and vibrant groups of experts are dedicated to building the capacity and realising the potential of our profession.

In the face of a continuing global pandemic, and with a newly developed facility for virtual collaboration and presentation, IFLA’s 50+ Professional Units represent sectors, specialties and embody the principles of the Library and Information field. Throughout 2021, the Units contributed their experience and expertise, enriching each area of focus and bringing together stakeholders toward a common set of action items.

2020-21 projects and initiatives took a variety of forms and emphasised communication, sustainability, equity, and collaboration. With this work, the IFLA Professional Structure – Section Standing Committees and Special Interest Groups – engaged with library professionals to support field-wide professional practice.

Among the stellar projects highlighted during the year, the 2021 Dynamic Unit and Impact Award (DUIA) Winner, IFLA Academic and Research Libraries Section, facilitated a high level of communication in the field via their virtual event series, covering everything from decolonizing the academic library to digital preservation initiatives, and rebuilding after disaster. DUIA runners-up Library Services to Children and Young Adults focused their work on highlighting Safer Internet Day practices via a global survey, and the Education and Training Section facilitated opportunities for LIS students to discuss field matters on a global stage.

Throughout 2021, Units continued to engage with the IFLA Strategy 2019-2024 - nine Units were recognised in our “Units + IFLA Strategy” showcase, featured for their activities and projects. While those recognised demonstrated exceptional alignment to the Strategy’s strategic directions and key initiatives, all Units continue proactively to develop and deliver essential resources openly to the field.

The massively upgraded IFLA website and new institutional repository provide a dynamic space for Units to share their work publicly. Besides providing access to core IFLA publications, these ever-expanding platforms serve also as an international resource hub for Unit-produced publications such as standards, guidelines, toolkits, and infographics. These two platforms encourage collaboration internally and externally—and showcase the extensive, far-reaching work of the Professional Units.

Our 2020-21 election season saw a higher than ever turnout in both nominations to Standing Committee positions and voting participation. Initiated in August, the new Professional Structure brought the Division Committee leaders closer in contact with the Professional Council leadership and support was facilitated with an increase in the number of Divisions from 5 to 8, thereby decreasing the number of Professional Units in each Division Committee.

Professional Units saw an increase in Officers from two to three with the addition of the Information Coordinator as an Officer role. Meanwhile, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) now have full Committees of 9 members, supporting each SIG’s work in conjunction with the Convenor. IFLA’s Committee on Standards (CoS), a former Strategic Programme, became

an Advisory Committee to the IFLA Governing Board, providing advice regarding internal and external Standards-related issues. The CoS continues to guide and manage our four Review Groups.

The outgoing 2019-2021 Professional Committee worked together to produce IFLA's first-ever virtual WLIC in 2021, with recorded presentations from experts from across the globe, live question and answer sessions, and an active and appreciative attendee base. Professional Units facilitated over 50 sessions, bringing information professionals together to discover, discuss, present, provoke and solve challenges faced by the field, and to celebrate those successes and initiatives that move the field forward.

IFLA Professional Units continue to be drivers and advocates of the IFLA 2019-2024 Strategy. Progress could not be made without their contributions. We thank them and look forward to their work in 2022 and beyond.

Publishing

Powered by continuing changes in library and information science, IFLA's publications bring an international perspective to issues affecting libraries.

IFLA Journal

IFLA's publishing partner for the IFLA Journal is SAGE Publishing who continued throughout 2021 to enhance the journal by providing for more articles and additional pages in each issue. A bumper crop of over 40 articles were published with three issues highlighting research and professional practice across the globe. Authors and topics came from countries including Jordan and South Africa, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Lebanon, and Egypt and Ireland.

A fourth issue focussed on indigenous librarianship, giving centre stage to this crucial specific area of the profession. Produced with the assistance of IFLA's Indigenous Matters Section, the issue explores topics such as colonization, reconciliation, representation and imagery, digital access, and resource management. As a special issue it provides a valuable insight to working with indigenous materials and documentary heritage and showcases the journal's ability to bring a truly international perspective to all aspects of the library field.

IFLA Repository

Launched in August 2021 together with our new website, one of the year's key releases involving our publications is the IFLA Repository. Utilising Dublin Core metadata standards, this new DSpace-based repository is a rich and ever-expanding resource that enables users to explore IFLA Standards, key publications, core documents, and much more.

By the end of 2021, the repository had logged:

- 1813 items archived
- 637,790 item views
- 1,259,719 searches performed

Major enhancements to the platform are expected in 2022.

IFLA Library

Online since 2013, the IFLA Library is our repository of digital resources and currently includes WLIC papers, posters, and satellite meeting papers/presentations. Each year has shown continued growth across important indicators.

Statistics show impressive usage in 2021:

- 162,955 total downloads
- Total number of files in the repository at year's end: 2,231 items.

- Peak downloads were recorded in March 2021 (16,023 downloads)
- The most downloaded paper in 2021 was downloaded 5,142 times.
- 90,828 searches were directed from Google

IFLA Standards

While no new IFLA Standards were released in 2021, a number of Standards were in the final stages of approval at year's end, covering topics such as: National bibliographies, services to displaced persons, LIS education, along with a major update to the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD).

IFLA Professional Reports

The IFLA Professional Report series promotes high standards of library and information services and advances knowledge within the profession. Contents include guidance on implementing IFLA Standards and guidelines, reports, and articles on emerging trends in areas of professional practice, and substantial project reports. One completely new IFLA Professional Report was published in 2021:

The Government Information Landscape and Libraries

Edited by Kay Cassell, James Church, and Kathryn Tallman

IFLA Publications Series

Along with our publishing partner, De Gruyter, new proposals were sought on key themes of current concern.

One volume, in open access, was released in 2021:

New Libraries in Old Buildings — Creative Reuse

Edited by Petra Hauke, Karen Latimer and Robert Niess

WLIC 2021

Key Facts

- IFLA's first virtual WLIC
- Virtually hosted across three time zones
- 3 main streams and 3 Zoom discussion rooms
- 2835 participants
- 147 sessions
- 66 e-posters
- 137 grants for young librarians and librarians from developing countries
- 47 registration scholarships
- 18 exhibitors
- 17 *Let's Read Together* sessions
- Participants from 130 countries
- Featured wellness and social activities

While the global pandemic caused, in 2020, the first cancellation of our annual World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) since the World War II era, for 2021 we were ready to take an innovative approach – despite still being unable to meet physically. The 86th WLIC in 2021 gave attendees from across the world a chance to experience our first ever IFLA virtual WLIC.

Participants from 130 countries came together virtually across three time zones to enjoy sessions and discussions around the Congress theme of *Let's work together for the future*. This theme reflected and furthered the presidential theme of IFLA President 2019-2021 Christine Mackenzie – *Let's work together* – and built upon a key finding from IFLA's Global Vision project: that we are united globally in our goals and values and we must connect global and local actions effectively.

A lower registration cost was set to enable higher participation from librarians around the world under the exceptional circumstances. This enabled 2,835 attendees to participate in the various sessions and activities or to engage with peers from around the world in Q&A Zoom rooms, chats, and networking rooms.

Registered delegates were given the opportunity to support WLIC registration scholarships. By paying the registration costs for those unable to afford the fees, they provided a unique opportunity for participants to connect with and support their global peers. 47 delegates took up this offer and paid for an additional registration. The generosity of individuals in the field is to be applauded.

Aligned with the five WLIC 2021 subthemes of *Libraries Inspire*, *Libraries Include*, *Libraries Connect*, *Libraries Innovate*, *Libraries Sustain*, presentations and sessions provided starters for discussion, ideas to take away, and options to implement.

Nearly 60 hours of virtual sessions took place across the three main streams. 35 hours of Q&As in Zoom Meeting Rooms were also logged, along with three social activities: a quiz, Karaoke, and a wrap-up session with a sketch artist.

Unsurprisingly, the two most popular sessions were the opening ceremony and the closing ceremony. Close contenders were the Government Libraries section session, the Library Buildings and Equipment Section session and the President's session "Working together for Culture" which followed with the highest number of viewers. Post-WLIC feedback shows participants highly appreciated that sessions were recorded and made available on the WLIC platform for a full 12 months.

A virtual WLIC 2021 allowed IFLA to reach new heights—accessible across continents, time zones, and information sectors. Expanding inclusivity and encouraging broad attendance ensured delegates from every region of the world had the chance to learn, grow, and expand their horizons.

WLIC 2021 Sponsors

Presenting Partner

OCLC

Technology partner

Delegate Connect

Subtheme Sponsor

IEEE Explore

Accessibility Sponsor

ProQuest

Gamification Sponsor

LexisNexis

National Dutch Libraries support

- NBD Biblion
- Vereniging Openbare Bibliotheken
- De Bibliotheek Rotterdam
- Erasmus University Rotterdam

Honours and Premier Awards

IFLA Honorary Fellow

The following recipient was awarded the IFLA Honorary Fellow:

- **Glòria Pérez Salmerón**

Be it through new ways of thinking, innovative technology or extending inclusion, Glòria's passion to leave a positive impact has been a constant thread throughout her career. She has instilled optimism in emerging library leaders in the ability of libraries to thrive, and been a constant and encouraging ambassador for an outward-looking, internationally-oriented approach. The global library field and IFLA have benefitted immensely from her energy and drive, making Glòria Pérez-Salmerón a most worthy recipient of IFLA's highest honour of Honorary Fellow.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The following recipients were awarded the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation:

- **Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi**
For his distinguished contribution to IFLA, through his extensive work on a wide range of standards related committees, and progressing the development, enhancement and promotion of IFLA's bibliographic standards for the benefit of the global library field.
- **Petra Hauke**
For her distinguished contribution to IFLA, particularly in increasing understanding of the crucial role of the environment and sustainability for libraries. IFLA also recognises her extensive work as a motivator of young professionals to integrate into, and engage with, the international library field.
- **Stephane Ipert**
For his distinguished contribution to IFLA, particularly his leadership and commitment to ensuring the preservation and conservation of the unique cultural heritage of the Middle East and North Africa region.
- **Ann Okerson**
For her distinguished contribution to IFLA's Governing Board and committees and for her commitment to increasing understanding of the global context for library acquisition of electronic resources, the impact of open access, and the developing role of library publishing.

IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award

- **Academic and Research Libraries (ARL) Section** (Winner)
- **Education and Training Section**
(Special mention for its quality and impact of the work)
- **Library Services for Children and Young Adults Section**
(Special mention for its facilitating effective communication)

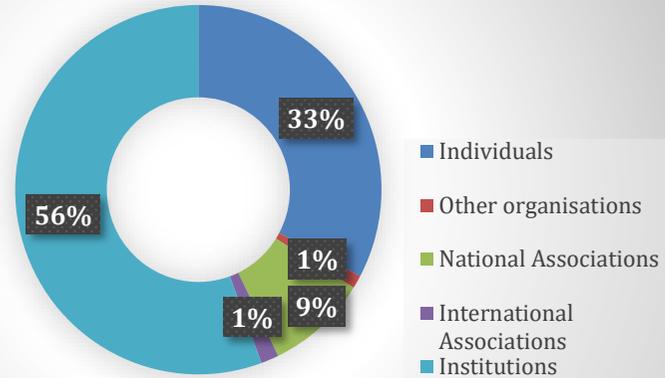
Membership

2021 began with 1,477 members and ended with 1401 members. Whilst the start of COVID-19 was particularly difficult for libraries, the continuation of the pandemic and its economic effects during 2021 have impacted IFLA's members and the library field. IFLA experienced declining numbers in almost all categories and across all regions of the world. Even the Personal Affiliate category which had seen growth in previous years, fell in 2021.

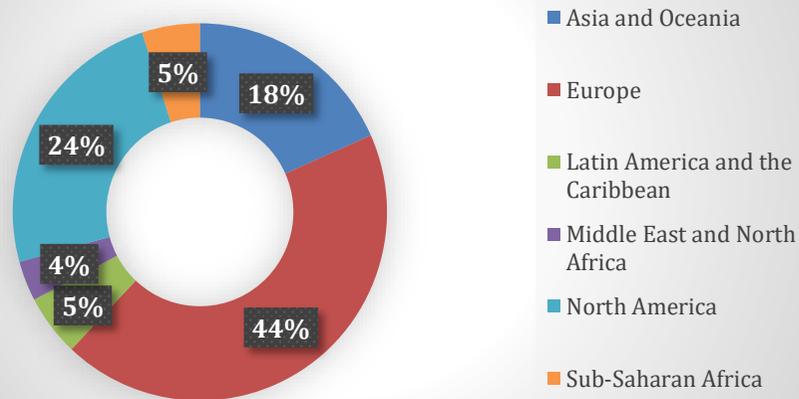
IFLA membership spans 135 countries and libraries of all types. New institutional members for 2021 included the Bibliothèque Nationale de Djibouti, the Center of Islamic Civilization of Uzbekistan, Ghana Library Authority, the Metropolitan New York Library Council, Biblioteca Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña (Dominican Republic), and the National Library of the Faroe Islands. Members received a virtual membership badge and new organisations joining IFLA have been welcomed in the IFLA Newsletter.

Number of Members per Category 2020 > 2021	Asia & Oceania		Europe		Latin America & Caribbean		MENA		North America		Africa		Total		%
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	
<i>Category</i>	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021-2020
National Associations	25	34	61	63	14	19	7	0	8	12	10	11	125	139	-10%
International Associations	2	1	9	10	1	2	1	0	7	7	2	2	22	22	0%
Institutions	141	170	433	456	37	40	23	0	96	101	49	64	779	831	-6%
Individuals	85	93	99	95	22	21	17	0	227	241	9	23	459	473	-3%
Other Organisations	4	4	10	6	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	16	12	33%
Grand Total	257	302	612	630	74	82	48	0	340	362	70	101	1401	1477	-5%
2020 > 2021%	-15%		-3%		-10%				-6%		-31%		-5%		
Total Organisations	172	209	513	535	52	61	31	0	113	121	61	78	942	1004	-6%
2020 > 2021%	-18%		-4%		-15%				-7%		-22%		-6%		
Total Individuals	85	93	99	95	22	21	17	0	227	241	9	23	459	473	-3%
2020 > 2021%	-9%		4%		5%				-6%		-61%		-3%		

Members per Category



Members per Region



NOTE: "Membership Income" data to be added

Statement from the Treasurer

The financial result of the year 2021 shows a surplus of €392,691, compared to a surplus of €293,495 for 2020. The surplus of 2021 brings our general reserves to €2,223,394, and earmarked reserves to €71,375. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to secure our work and sustainability into the future.

Financial year 2021 was – just like 2020 - a very special and challenging year on many levels. On a financial level, the impact of Covid-19 led to some major deviations in comparison with previous years:

- 1) The cancellation of IFLA's World Library Information Congress 2020 in Dublin led to a loss of approximately € 160,000 due to costs charged by external parties for work and services performed for the conference. Furthermore, IFLA was not able to charge the yearly management fees of € 212,000 to the conference to cover for IFLA staff performing work for the conference.

IFLA's World Library Information Congress 2021 was held in a virtual way and closed with a balanced budget, with the support to the Dutch Government Financial aid related to loss of turnover due to Covid-19 for the IFLA Conference BV's of approximately € 180,000. From this amount, the Dutch Government still has to settle the aid from Q4 2021 of approximately € 99,000 and therefore precaution is advised for the amount of financial aid that is included in the result.

- 2) IFLA's consolidated income streams were approximately 50% lower compared to 2019 (pre-covid). Main reason for this was the decrease of approximately 80% in conference income because of the lower ticket prices for the virtual WLIC and lower attended delegates (WLIC 2019 approximately € 1,500,000 income for the conference compared to € 280,000 for WLIC 2021).

The Dutch Government recognized the need for financial aid which is based on the decrease % of group income and the amount of internal staff expenses and and this has led to a financial aid to cover for IFLA's staff expenses of approximately € 449,000 (2020: € 476,000). However, the Dutch Government still has to settle the aid from October 2020 until December 2021 of approximately € 591,000, and therefore – like above already mentioned - precaution is advised for the amount of financial aid that is included in the result.

Thanks to long-term funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IFLA was able to cover for the staff expenses involved in the International Advocacy programme. Furthermore, IFLA works strongly together with Stichting IFLA Global Libraries (SIGL) on projects primarily funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through its Legacy Grant and Data Grant. Therefore, a part of IFLA's staff and overhead expenses is jointly borne by IFLA and SIGL.

Though we show a positive result of € 392,691, it should be stated that without the Dutch Government special Covid-19 related financial aid for financial year 2021 of approximately € 630,000, IFLA would have a major deficit in 2021. Furthermore, it is thanks to the continuous support of IFLA's member organisations and individuals who support us through donations and hosting activities, and to the organisations that support our initiatives and projects through grant funding that IFLA was able to present this positive financial report for 2021.

It remains uncertain what financial impact the Covid-19 pandemic will have on the coming years for both IFLA and her members worldwide. It remains important for IFLA to explore additional funding opportunities and aim to have a balanced relation between income development and costs structure to ensure our ongoing viability.

IFLA's audited financial statements 2021 are available on the website.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

(after appropriation of result)

Assets	31 December 2021		31 December 2020	
	€	€	€	€
<i>Tangible Fixed Assets</i>		17,805		25,630
<i>Financial Fixed Assets</i>		282,733		282,576
<i>Current assets</i>				
Receivables	525,690		415,444	
Cash at bank and in hand	5,201,436		5,042,988	
		<u>5,727,126</u>		<u>5,458,432</u>
		<u><u>6,027,664</u></u>		<u><u>5,766,638</u></u>
Liabilities				
<i>Equity</i>				
Earmarked reserves	71,375		70,217	
General reserve	2,223,394		1,831,861	
		<u>2,294,769</u>		<u>1,902,078</u>
<i>Long-term liabilities</i>				
Bill & Melinda Gates outstanding		1,016,923		1,327,139
<i>Current liabilities</i>				
Deferred income	41,151		34,109	
Other liabilities	2,674,821		2,503,312	
		<u>2,715,972</u>		<u>2,537,421</u>
		<u><u>6,027,664</u></u>		<u><u>5,766,638</u></u>

Statement of income and expenditure for the year 2021

	2021	2020
	€	€
Income		
Membership fees	717,522	728,112
Corporate Supporters	0	0
Dutch Government Grant	16,000	16,000
General grants and donations	43,674	62,926
Sales of publications and royalties	30,531	32,018
Income vouchers scheme	29,003	20,999
Result subsidiary IFLA Holding B.V.	157	0
Conference services fees	212,000	0
Other management fees	10,000	13,000
Interest and other financial income	0	485
Miscellaneous	6,175	7,382
Contributions Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for Key Initiatives	266,350	273,205
WikiCite Satellite Event Grant	0	8,270
Media Literacy Grant	4,144	14,285
Document Delivery Grant	7,143	0
Arcadia Grant	0	0
Unesco Grant	11,333	0
Income Shawky Salem Training Fund	0	10,949
Contributions Sage for Congress Grants	2,238	2,328
	1,356,270	1,189,959
	2021	2020
	€	€

Expenditure		
Conference costs	75	360
Governance	16,721	24,714
Regional Offices and Centres	0	-47
Professional Activities	30,793	35,731
Advisory Committees	1,823	511
Costs of publications (including free publications to members)	40,749	35,465
Staff expenses	434,462	288,146
Business travel staff	1,804	612
Office expenses	82,330	18,119
Web and IT	32,958	30,142
Expenses voucher scheme	17,608	3,667
Result subsidiary IFLA Holding B.V.	0	159,478
Interest and other financial expenses	11,387	2,126
Miscellaneous	2,819	1,680
Expenses Key Initiatives BMGF	266,350	273,205
Expenses WikiCite Satellite Event	0	8,270
Expenses Media Literacy	4,144	14,285
Expenses Document Delivery	7,143	0
Expenses Arcadia	0	0
Expenses Unesco	11,333	0
Expenses Margreet Wijnstroom Fund	920	0
Expenses Congress Grants	160	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	963,579	896,464
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Result	<u>392,691</u>	<u>293,495</u>

Donors

IFLA gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution by these institutions and organisations that have enabled us to continue our strategic and regional activities and development projects in 2021.

- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands
Host of IFLA HQ
- University of South Africa, Pretoria
Host of IFLA Africa regional office
- National Library Board, Singapore
Host of IFLA Asia and Oceania regional office
- Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación
Host of IFLA Latin America and the Caribbean regional office
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt
Host of IFLA Language Centre for Arabic
- National Library of China
Host of IFLA Language Centre for Chinese
- Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal
Host of IFLA Language Centre for French in Africa
- Russian State Library
Host of IFLA Language Centre for Russian
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Bibliothèque Nationale du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
- Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse
- Library and Archives Canada
- National Diet Library, Japan
- National Library of Australia
- National Library of Finland
- National Library Board Singapore
- National Library Service of Barbados
- Stockholm University Library, Sweden
- Arcadia Fund

Team

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Halo Locher, Switzerland (Chair, MLAS)

Secretary: Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General

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IFLA Headquarters staff 2021

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Secretary General

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Communications Officer

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Administrative Assistant (Data and Outreach)

Esther Doria
Project Coordination Assistant

Valensiya Dresvyannikova
Policy and Research Officer

Nealette Faurie
Human Resources Officer

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Policy and Research Officer

Despina Gerasimidou
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Communications Officer

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Julia Zvobgo-Rozenboom
Communications Officer