

# IFLA Annual Report 2023

- Making a difference in 2023 ..... 2
  - Message from the IFLA President 2021-2023 ..... 3
  - Message from the IFLA President 2023-2025 ..... 4
- IFLA at work. .... 5
- Impact in numbers ..... 6
- Strengthening the Global Voice of Libraries ..... 7
- Inspiring and Enhancing Professional Practice ..... 10
- Connecting and Empowering the Field ..... 14
- Optimising our Organisation..... 18
- About IFLA..... 23
- Honours and Awards ..... 30
- Professional Awards ..... 30
- Treasurer’s statement..... 34
- Donors, sponsors and partners..... 35

# Making a difference in 2023

Welcome to the IFLA Annual Report 2023!

IFLA is about ensuring that libraries, by working together, can achieve more than they ever could on their own. This report provides a snapshot of all that our Federation is and does, as a space for dialogue, a catalyst for innovation, and a voice for change and justice. Everyone involved in IFLA – our members, our volunteers, our headquarters team and our partners – can look back on all that has been achieved, and feel proud of their contribution to it.

Yet in addition to delivering for the profession and the communities we serve today, we are also custodians, responsible for ensuring that IFLA can continue to fulfil its unique role into the future. With just four years to go until our centenary, 2023 was also a year of further work to identify and act on the issues we need to address in order to ensure our sustainability. We continued to deliver on the Plan for Securing IFLA's Future, under the leadership of Barbara Lison, until the end of her term in August. At our Congress, our new President, Vicki McDonald, set out clear priorities focused on building a more effective and inclusive IFLA for tomorrow.

As was highlighted by the discussions around plans for our 2024 Congress, while it may be easy to say that we are an international federation, it is not so easy to be one. While there is much that brings us together as a field, there are also differences in contexts and priorities. We must continue to find ways to understand and manage these, while reaffirming the value of international librarianship as a necessary and transformative enterprise.

## **Leadership Renewal**

2023 was an election year for IFLA, with hundreds of positions open across dozens of committees and groups. Volunteering with IFLA is not just an important way of contributing to realising the potential of global librarianship, but also brings benefits to associations, institutions and professional networks. It was therefore positive to see so many of our members seize this opportunity, and put forward the most regionally diverse set of candidates ever.

The most prominent roles open for election were those on our Governing Board. As Vicki McDonald stepped up to become President for 2023-2025, taking on the role from Barbara Lison (President 2021-2023), the rest of the board – half returning members and half new – also began their mandates. Already at their first meeting, the Board launched into an ambitious work programme built around the priorities set out in the new President's speech at the closing session of the World Library and Information Congress 2023.

These priorities cover partnerships for financial sustainability, a review of our Congress model, a review of our governance structures, ensuring that we earn the privilege to be the global voice of libraires, the development of a new Strategy, more open communication, and stronger engagement between the Governing Board, Members and volunteers. Work to achieve these builds on and develops all that was already done under the Plan for Securing IFLA's Future launched by Barbara Lison already in 2022. You can read more about this work further on in this introduction.

It was also a year of change at IFLA's Headquarters. In June, IFLA welcomed its new Secretary General, Sharon Memis, who took up the reins from Helen Mandl who had ably held the role in an acting capacity since September 2022. Sharon brings invaluable experience of working internationally in the culture and education sectors, driving positive change, and delivering partnerships and results.

## **Delivering and Communicating**

As already highlighted, IFLA kept up its strong track record of delivery in 2023. The presentations of each of our four Strategic Directions that follow show just a small sample of the work that goes on every day across our volunteer groups, headquarters team and wider community, and the results this achieves. This year's Annual Report highlights key impacts, helping to make clear the value of the work done throughout IFLA.

The flagship event of the year was of course our World Library and Information Congress, which our Dutch National Committee in Rotterdam hosted with equal measures of expertise, energy and enthusiasm. IFLA is deeply grateful to Theo Kemperman, the whole National Committee and all those involved.

While of course IFLA is about far more than the few days we spend together at Congresses, the Netherlands showed how powerful the opportunity to spend time together can be. 2024 will be an opportunity to experiment and innovate around this with the holding of our Information Futures Summit in Brisbane, Australia, as well as to deliver on a broader review of our Congress model.

Beyond the Congress, we responded to Members' and volunteers' desire for clearer and more regular communication, with monthly personal messages from the IFLA President Vicki McDonald, setting out plans and reporting on progress, and are looking forward to regular Townhall meetings in 2024.

## **Planning for the Future**

IFLA has benefitted greatly from the generosity of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries programme for over 15 years. Thanks to their support, we are at a historic high in terms of the resources that we have available to support the field. To ensure that this lasts, the pressure is nonetheless on. By the time of our centenary in 2027, we need to have built a strong and diversified basis of support for IFLA's work.

Key elements of our work towards this are already in place. We are demonstrating our ability to deliver on projects, not least as highlighted in the mid-term report on the legacy grant provided to support IFLA, though our partnership with Stichting IFLA Global Libraries. IFLA is also highly grateful to the Arcadia Fund for its support for the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme, as well as to the European Commission for enabling work on media literacy and resource sharing. We are successfully building the skills and habits of impact evaluation across our field and developing our regional presence.

2023 also saw the launch of work to update our Strategy. This builds on the powerful basis provided by the Global Vision process, as well as the practical experience of implementing our current Strategy. With over a thousand responses to a series of pulse surveys, we are well placed to produce a document that will serve our Federation well over the next five years, supporting, catalysing and accelerating our work, and enabling new and strategic partnerships.

2024 will therefore be a year of further progress down this path, focussed on realising the potential of the global library field as a driver of sustainable, systemic, positive change.

## **Message from the IFLA President 2021-2023**

Dear IFLA Members, Volunteers, all,

In August 2023, my term as IFLA President came to an end, just a few weeks before I also retired as Director of Bremen City Library. After two intensive years in the former role – and 31 in the latter – I have finally had more time and personal distance for reflection!

Clearly, every IFLA presidency is different, and I am sure that mine was more different than others. Nonetheless, as I set out in my last speech at our Rotterdam Congress, and as I feel even more so now, reading through this report, IFLA is a unique organisation with a unique potential.

We are a Federation deeply marked by humanism, ethics, and diversity, in our immediate priorities, in the contexts we work in, in our areas of strength and focus. But we are also brought together by our belief in the difference that libraries can make.

I believe as strongly as ever that a sustainable future for our Federation is a precondition for a sustainable future for our field as a whole, which in turn is a precondition for a sustainable future for the communities we serve.

And I believe that, despite the ups and downs, we are closer to this at the end of 2023 as we were at the beginning. Led by Vicki McDonald and Sharon Memis, the international library field is in good hands!

**Barbara Lison**  
IFLA President 2021-2023

---

## Message from the IFLA President 2023-2025

Gamba daru\*!

I am proud to welcome you to this IFLA Annual Report, my first since taking on the role of IFLA President in August 2023. It is clearly an honour to take on a role that has previously been held by so many inspiring and insightful leaders in the field, including of course my predecessor Barbara Lison.

At the same time, I am also strongly aware of the leaders who will come after me, and so of the fact that my role is as a custodian of IFLA for them.

As I set out in my address at the end of our fantastic World Library and Information Congress in Rotterdam, I am keen to prioritise sustainability, which in turn is only possible through clear and transparent engagement with our members, wider community and partners. I am convinced that we are indeed 'stronger together' (my presidential theme), and that IFLA is the indispensable organisation for making this happen.

This Annual Report offers just a snapshot of how we make this happen – there is so much else going on, as even just a glimpse at the news and events pages on our website indicates.

We have a great basis for further progress, and I very much look forward to working with you in this, alongside IFLA President-elect Leslie Weir, my other colleagues on the Governing Board, and of course IFLA's Secretary General Sharon Memis.

Finally, I hope of course to welcome as many of you as possible to my hometown, Brisbane, for our Information Futures Summit on 30 September – 3 October 2024!

**Vicki McDonald**

IFLA President 2023-2025

\* "Gamba daru" means "Good day" in the language of the Barunggam people from the Darling Downs region of Dalby and Bunya Mountains – the community where I grew up.

## IFLA at work.

IFLA Strategy 2019-2024, consisting of four Strategic Directions and sixteen Key Initiatives, is our framework for actions to achieve our vision.			
SD 1: Strengthen the global voice of libraries	SD 2: Inspire and enhance professional practice	SD3: Connect and empower the field	SD 4: Optimise our organisation
KI 1.1: Show the power of libraries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals	KI 2.1: Produce, communicate and distribute key resources and materials that inspire the profession	KI 3.1: Provide excellent opportunities for face-to-face networking and learning	KI 4.1: Foster the long-term financial continuity and stability of the organisation
KI 1.2: Build a strong presence in international organizations and meetings as a valued partner	KI 2.2: Deliver high quality campaigns, information and other communications products on a regular basis to engage and energise libraries	KI 3.2: Support virtual networking and connections	KI 4.2: Effectively mobilise our human resources and networks
KI 1.3: Work with library associations and libraries to identify key legal and funding challenges to their work, and advocate for action	KI 2.3: Develop standards, guidelines, and other materials that foster best professional practice	KI 3.3: Empower the field at the national and regional levels	KI 4.3: Increase, diversify and engage our membership
KI 1.4: Shape public opinion and debate around open access and library values, including intellectual freedom and human rights	KI 2.4: Provide tools and infrastructure that support the work of libraries	KI 3.4: Provide targeted learning and professional development	KI 4.4: Increase our visibility through excellent and innovative communications

# Impact in numbers

[A page containing key statistics and some quotes highlighting impact, which draws together content from elsewhere in the report]

- Over 50% of Voluntary National Reviews of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals talk about the role of libraries
- A delegation of ten librarians from all regions at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York
- Data about library work to support climate action in communities included in the Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) framework
- IFLA's new Open Science and Scholarship Advisory Committee begins its work.
- New Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence formed
- One revised and one new standard
- Three new or revised IFLA Professional Reports
- In partnership with De Gruyter, two new titles on key themes
- IFLA Journal received its first ever Impact Factor of 1.3 [citation metric]
- 714 items were added to the IFLA Repository
- Over 103 000 downloads from the IFLA Library
- 12 impact trainers trained to cascade training in measurement, evaluation and demonstrating impact of library services
- 2 regional workshops on strategies for sustainable libraries brought together 80 participants from over 70 countries
- 7 emerging leaders from five different world regions at WLIC helping to build the Trend Report 2023 Update
- New Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa
- 600 meetings and webinars held by IFLA's Professional Units
- Over 3,000 participants from 115 countries at IFLA's first hybrid WLIC with over 90 open and 130 side sessions and over 190 posters
- 24 WLIC Satellite meetings with over 900 participants
- Increased regional diversity on IFLA's committees after Elections 2023
- Four pulse surveys seeking input into updating IFLA Strategy received over 1,000 responses
- IFLA members and affiliates in 147 countries. Growing membership with 1,725 members at the end of 2023, an annual increase of 4%

# Strengthening the Global Voice of Libraries

*Under this Strategic Direction, IFLA works to build the profile of libraries on the global stage, and through this create opportunities for our institutions and profession to gain recognition, respect, and support.*

## Our achievements

- For the first time, over 50% of Voluntary National Reviews of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals talk about the role of libraries.
- Metrics of library engagement are now included in key global statistics about climate empowerment activities.
- Libraries are recognised in a significant intergovernmental declaration on culture and climate change.
- IFLA joins the Partner2Connect initiative, underlining libraries' role as actors in digital inclusion.
- IFLA holds an event at the United Nations focused on exploring libraries' role in building information integrity.

## The difference we made

- “Being part of the Federation also opens doors to knowledge, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national, regional and international levels, as well as Advocacy issues. This allows us to collaborate on regional works and, above all, to think collectively with the global library community on the modernization of our library services. Being part of the voice of libraries allows us to generate a real impact on citizens. We recognise the fundamental role of libraries as drivers of development and their positive influence on communities.” **Alejandro Santa, Library of Congress, Argentina**
- “Our organisation in India definitely finds legitimacy in being part of IFLA. We have also used the IFLA-UNESCO manifesto in many of our advocacy efforts and librarianship workshops, in particular to talk about the urgency of having a free, excellent & inclusive public library system in India.” **Purnima Rao, Free Libraries Network – FLN**
- “When addressing challenging issues such as intellectual freedom, we look to IFLA for its position and resources.” **Vickery Bowles, Toronto Public Library**
- “I benefited from connecting with trends and challenges on the global front and relating global trends to my local situation.”, **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- “[In my organisation, we are] using the IFLA toolkits and guidelines to improve our library services and for advocacy purposes. I love it when I am able to localise library best practice to suit us. I also find that when I make a request to upper management for resources I am successful because I can justify it.” **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- “The role of the United Nations in supporting library activities will encourage the national librarians to do their best to develop their libraries.” **Dr. Faiza Albayati (prof.), The Iraqi Association for Information, Libraries and Documentation Specialists**

## Highlights

IFLA continues to broaden and deepen its engagement in global fora, as well as to intensify its efforts to translate work here into tools, resources, insights and connections that can benefit the library field as a whole.

2023 marked an important milestone in our engagement with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, with over half of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underlining the role of libraries. This follows IFLA support for libraries in VNR countries, focused on realising the potential of the VNR process to build new connections across government.

IFLA is also an active member of the Culture2030Goal campaign, alongside other global cultural networks, and in this context advocates for better recognition of culture's deep and cross-cutting role in sustainable development. Following advocacy, 2023 saw inclusion of culture in the Declaration from the United Nations' SDG Summit, as well as in other top-level agreements, including the G20 and BRICS Declarations.

It was also a year of progress in building understanding of libraries' role in addressing climate change. Thanks to the mobilisation of our members, IFLA ensured that data about library work to support climate action in communities is included in the Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) framework. It was also strongly represented at COP28, where there was agreement on a governmental declaration on culture and climate action which underlined the importance of libraries. Earlier in the year, IFLA joined the Greening Education Partnership.

IFLA has long worked in the context of discussions around internet governance to build awareness of libraries' role as partners in delivering digital inclusion. In 2023, it helped strengthen recognition of the importance of literacies in UNESCO's guidelines on platform regulation, organised four sessions at the Internet Governance Forum, contributed to ongoing World Summit on the Information Society work, engaged actively around the Global Digital Compact, joined the International Telecommunications Union's Partner2Connect initiative, and organised an event at the United Nations exploring the different dimensions of libraries' role in information integrity. This last concept offers important possibilities to build recognition of why libraries matter so much in today's information environment.

Copyright and open access are also long-standing areas for IFLA advocacy, given their impact on our ability to deliver on access to information. In 2023, IFLA celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Marrakesh Treaty, publishing research underlining the need to focus more on getting implementation right in order to bring real benefits to library users with print disabilities. 2023 was also the year in which IFLA's new Open Science and Scholarship Advisory Committee began its work, offering a structure for stronger and more coordinated work to promote inclusion and impact in research.

Thanks to the support of the Arcadia Fund, IFLA was able to continue its support to the Knowledge Rights 21 programme, which is already delivering policy change around copyright and open access in Europe, as well as resources which strengthen advocacy around the world.

These represent just a selection of the areas where IFLA focused its efforts around advocacy and partnership building. Beyond these, IFLA is building ever stronger relationships around culture, adult education, the role of science in policy-making, urban development and more, both at the global and regional levels, notably through regional workshops (see Strategic Direction 3).

Looking ahead to 2024, IFLA will continue combining work to build partnerships globally with outreach and engagement with libraries to ensure that its advocacy work brings benefits to all.

In 2023, SIGL supported:

- Close engagement in the run up to, and at, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including participation in all five regional sustainable development fora, and a



delegation of ten librarians at the UN in New York for the Forum itself. SIGL support also enabled our wider work around the SDGs, including workshops in the margins of other events designed to boost our reach.

- In addition, we have work ongoing to finalise the 2024 Development and Access to Information Report (DA2I), as well as a white paper by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network on how libraries can contribute to Education for Sustainable Development. Both will serve to support libraries in their own advocacy.

# Inspiring and Enhancing Professional Practice

*Under this Strategic Direction, IFLA realises its potential as a vibrant professional community, bringing together committed and insightful colleagues. Through this, IFLA is a catalyst for the development and spread of essential tools for enhancing our contribution to development.*

## Our achievements

- New publications and guidelines offer indispensable support for better library services in everything from prisons to metadata.
- Successful delivery of the HERMES project sees a practical new tool for resource sharing released.
- Exciting work around Artificial Intelligence helps accelerate debate in the field, and gives us a stronger voice externally.
- Finalised and agreed the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners (4th Edition)

## The difference we made

- “IFLA information resources and guidelines [was my main highlight from IFLA membership in 2023].” **Rosemary Shafack, University of Buea**
- “The World Through Picture Books programme [was our IFLA membership highlight in 2023]. Iran succeeded in using the opinions of librarians in public libraries and registering ten selected books in this programme. Of course, we are still following up on the final and modified version of this program, which is published on the IFLA website.” **Mohammad Mahdi Zarafshan, Iran Public Libraries Foundation**
- “As a member of the MCULTP committee, I received a call for a book chapter on multilingual non-Latin script interoperability, and my proposal was accepted, and it will be my first time being published! This group has also opened my eyes to how non-English languages are represented in the library world (or how they're absent), but I'm still working on how I can contribute to change that (since I'm barely a beginner at Mandarin or Thai).” **A representative of an IFLA association member**
- “I absorbed and learnt a lot of the latest research progress and knowledge, carried out industry exchanges and enhanced my professional skills.” **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- We appreciate work of committees and interest groups on cataloguing and bibliographic data. We are national type library and it helps us not to fall out of current bibliographic data development trends on the global scale. We have cooperation networks on Northern Europe scale, but IFLA provides broader scope on these matters.” **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- “[IFLA Volunteers are]...helpful and generous with their time and professional knowledge [who] welcomed me into their circle... Everyone in IFLA that I have worked with, I have been able to develop a friendship and a professional connection...we share knowledge constantly. We have a world-wide network that we're all comfortable working with.” **Ana Krahmer, University of North Texas Libraries, United States of America**
- "In chairing the committee that developed the "Competency Guidelines for Rare Books and Special Collections Professionals", I felt I had made a positive and significant contribution to the field...I have had the opportunity to work with some of the top specialists in the field...expand my professional network and my practical day-to-day working knowledge, by interacting with my international colleagues and learning of their best practices and procedures. As a result of IFLA,

I have gained a better global understanding and perspective of my field, my colleagues and the needs of both.” **Beth Kilmarx, Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, United States of America**

## Highlights

IFLA’s professional community continued to work hard across 2023 to provide practical standards, tools and wider opportunities to share knowledge, address issues, and accelerate the spread of good ideas across the field. They continue to be both leaders in defining and key actors in delivering work under the IFLA Strategy. With the ongoing development of the Library Map of the World, IFLA supports the field by providing a platform for sharing inspirational stories and demonstrating the potential of libraries to external stakeholders.

Benefitting from active and responsive support from the headquarters team, IFLA’s over 50 volunteer groups produced an impressive set of outputs, which is hard to summarise here. One key highlight was the successful completion of the HERMES project, funded by the European Union. This grew out of the Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section’s RSCVD project, bringing together librarians from Europe and beyond to develop both a new software platform for giving access to research, and practical guidance.

Another example is IFLA’s Green Library Award, which continues to provide both an opportunity to celebrate dedication and innovation in making library buildings, services and operations greener, as well as a rich and growing set of practical examples of how to do this.

This work focused on the issues facing librarians today underlines the Federation’s role in helping libraries – and so also the communities they serve – keep up with key developments and opportunities, and provide ever more effective services. A particular highlight is IFLA’s new Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group, which has brought new focus and clarity to the field’s efforts to understand and work out how to make the most of technology while managing the risks. Further details about IFLA Standards, Professional Reports, Publications Journal and Repository are provided below.

Communications and flagship resources are also a key part of our work to inspire professional practice. IFLA’s newsletter has provided a particularly rich opportunity to highlight the diversity of contributions that its volunteer community provides. Thematic editions on, for example, digital inclusion, community initiatives, literacy, sustainability, cultural diversity, partnerships, and innovation have demonstrated the depth and breadth of different committees’ work on issues that matter for communities and decision-makers alike.

IFLA also works to develop flagship resources that support the field’s work. The Library Map of the World grew, with new data, stories and country profiles that help build understanding of what libraries can do, as well as making possible new insights into the field as a whole. IFLA also released the latest Update to its Trend Report, co-authored by the emerging leaders who spoke at the previous year’s World Library and Information Congress, and launched work on the two upcoming editions.

Looking into 2024, IFLA continues to focus on supporting and mobilising its professional community, in order ever more effectively to realise the potential of libraries to improve lives.

## IFLA Standards

IFLA is also where essential work is done on the standards and models which underpin libraries' ability to work together globally. The library and information science field has come to rely on IFLA Standards as an international measure of excellence. Each IFLA standard reflects consensus on up-to-date principles, guidelines and best practice for a particular library or information-related activity or service. Standards are developed by IFLA's Professional Units, Special Programmes and Review Groups, often in collaboration with other international organisations. IFLA's broader work on standards remains the most regularly accessed material on its website.

2023 saw the publication of a new UNIMARC manual, as well as one official Standard:

### **IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners (4th Edition)**

Working group on Prison Libraries of the IFLA Library Services to People with Special Needs Section  
Edited by Jane Garner and Lisa Krolak

## IFLA Professional Reports

The long-running IFLA Professional Report series promotes high standards of library and information services and advances knowledge within the profession.

Three new or revised IFLA Professional Reports were published in 2023:

### **Document Delivery and Resource Sharing: Global Perspectives**

Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section  
Edited by Peter Collins

### **Creating and Maintaining a Safer Online World for Children and Young Adults in Libraries: A Report on the 2021 Safer Internet Day Baseline Survey for IFLA**

By Marianne Martens,Carolynn Rankin, and Alicia Kolarić  
Developed by the IFLA Library Services to Children and Young Adults Section: Safer Internet Day Working Group

### **The World Through Picture Books, 3rd edition**

IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section  
Edited by Annie Everall and Claire Stuckey

## IFLA Publications Series

Along with our partner, De Gruyter, two new titles were published in 2023 on key themes of current concern.

### **Bridging Research and Library Practice – Global Perspectives on Education and Training**

Edited by Krystyna K. Matusiak, Kawanna M. Bright, and Debbie Schachter

Bridging the gap between research and practice communities is more pertinent than ever because of the need for evidence in developing and evaluating library services and programs. It shares case studies and approaches to teaching and conducting research in practice.

## Information Services for a Sustainable Society – Current Developments in an Era of Information Disorder

Edited by Madeleine C. Fombad, Colleen Takaingehamo Chisita, Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha, and Mabel K. Minishi-Majanja

The book outlines how information professionals are providing information services in a sustainable society and covers topics such as data and records, analytics, information ethics and knowledge management.

## IFLA Journal

Across four volumes in 2023, the IFLA Journal included review articles, case studies and articles covering the breadth of library services and issues from all regions of the world. The diversity was assisted by the flexible page budget provided by SAGE which represents an investment in the journal's future giving the editor more space for content and more opportunities for authors.

IFLA Journal was selected as part of Sage's two-year Language Editing Services pilot to support the journal's work to diversify and assist its author base. The journal will receive 10 Language Editing waivers per annum to use at the editor's discretion, from January 2023 until December 2024.

While the IFLA Journal is primarily a member benefit, it has steadily increased its ranking within the library and information science category in SCImago and CiteScore. Although the journal was already part of the Emerging Sources Citation Index, in 2023 it received its first ever Impact Factor of 1.3, providing great recognition of its status as a peer-reviewed international journal and of the work of its editorial committee.

The most downloaded article in IFLA Journal for 2023 was: *Onboarding in the age of COVID-19* by Andrew R. Carlos and Daisy C. Muralles.

## IFLA Repository

Utilising Dublin Core metadata standards, the IFLA Repository a rich and continuously expanding platform that enables users to explore IFLA Standards, key publications and much more. With over 3000 curated submissions, it reflects the breadth of IFLA's impactful work, past and present.

714 items were added to the repository in 2023, with the bulk of material coming from IFLA's Professional Units and IFLA WLIC 2023 materials. The range of deposited items is broad and included unit reports, Standards, translations, Congress papers, presentations and posters.

In 2024, we hope to integrate the content of the existing IFLA Library, which contains pre-2020 WLIC papers, posters and other materials. This is a significant resource, with over 103 000 downloads in 2023, with 1777 downloads for the most used paper.

In 2023, SIGL supported:

- Ongoing work to maintain and build on the Library Map of the World as an essential resource for understanding and demonstrating what libraries can deliver around the world.
- Finally, SIGL support has made the first phase of preparation of the Trend Report 2024 possible.

# Connecting and Empowering the Field

*Under this Strategic Direction, IFLA works to realise the potential of the Federation as a space for building connection between colleagues in all parts of the world. With stronger capacities at all levels, the library field can become an ever stronger driver of systemic positive change.*

## Our achievements

- Regional Workshops in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa lead to intensified work on partner outreach, support for emerging leaders, and a greater focus on sustainability in planning
- Over 200 people apply for our train the trainers course on impact evaluation, and a core team of 12 are trained to share key lessons with libraries globally
- IFLA renews and expands its network of Regional Offices
- IFLA's first hybrid WLIC took an innovative approach to expanding the congress's reach, transcending geographical boundaries and promoting inclusivity within the global library and information community.

## The difference we made

- “Having a strong network of international colleagues can contribute to the strategic work for libraries globally. Can work on professional development and sharing of ideas for library staff with passionate library advocates which benefits me personally and builds the skills of my organisation's staff.” **A representative of an IFLA Institutional member**
- “My main highlight would be IFLA Workshop on building a Strong and Sustainable Library field in Sub-Saharan Africa dated between 16-18th October, 2023 which was an eye opening for me living in a country like Somalia which has been in a destruction of all sorts of public services for long though is currently recovering from there. I share the knowledge gained from IFLA with my team, and they utilize the information. This has also helped our institution to be easily identifiable on the IFLA list as the only representing institution from Somalia. This could also be seen as a form of corporate promotion.” **Mohamud Mohamed Siad, SIMAD University**
- “We benefit from the opportunity to contact and share resources with other members, it opens up horizons and allows us to keep up to date with what is happening in the world of libraries.” **A representative of an IFLA association member**
- “I got a great opportunity to learn new ideas and experiences, study current topics and trends in library development. Participating in conferences allows me to travel and change the world around me for the better.” **Kabiba Akzhigitova, The Association of Librarians of the East Kazakhstan Region of the Republic of Kazakhstan**
- “As a leader of the association I have learned a lot and tried to use globally developed documents and guides on local level. Personally I feel that thinking about all different topics is broadened my view on librarianship and situation in the world.” **A representative of an IFLA association member**
- “The fact that a librarian from my city of Ust-Kamenogorsk, Asel Omarova, took part in a conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, with her poster presentation [was our highlight]. Our Association has shown an example to the library community of Kazakhstan of the possibilities of our profession. Personally, I gained confidence in the importance of the mission of the librarian profession and confirmation of the unity of the global library community.” **Bakhtyly Rakhimbaeva, The Association of Librarians of the East Kazakhstan Region of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

## Highlights

IFLA has a unique potential as the global organisation for libraries to act not just as a meeting place, but also as a structure which allows for more ambitious, more relevant responses to global challenges.

Thanks to the support of Stichting IFLA Global Libraries (SIGL), IFLA held two further regional workshops focused on strategies for sustainable libraries. Held in Brussels (for Europe) and Nairobi (for Sub-Saharan Africa), these brought together representatives of over 70 countries in order to receive action-orientated training focused on how to enhance impact and sustainability. A highlight of these workshops has been short conferences bringing together representatives of regional and international organisations to share information about their work and potential for collaboration.

In addition to strongly positive immediate feedback from participants, it is already clear that participants have created new connections, making international engagement a stronger part of their own national strategy. Early work on impacts also demonstrates positive changes in how libraries and associations are planning for the future, as well as reflecting on how to support emerging leaders.

The other main element of IFLA's work on emerging leaders were grants to enable participation at the World Library and Information Congress in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Given the task of identifying factors that determine how effectively libraries can fulfil their potential to drive sustainable development, leaders from five different world regions shared a rich range of ideas which form the basis of our 2023 Trend report update.

SIGL funding also made possible a major upgrade in our work to build skills for impact evaluation across the field. A call for candidates for a train-the-trainers programme was heavily over-subscribed, and after a tough selection process, 12 leaders – 2 from each region – were selected to attend an intensive course in The Hague.

A growing focus for IFLA's work under this Strategic Direction is the strengthening of regional working. 2023 not only saw the renewal of IFLA's Regional Council and Regional Division Committees, each putting together workplans focused on impact, but also a successful renewal and expansion of the Regional Office network. IFLA was happy to welcome Qatar National Library as its Office for the Middle East and North Africa, joining the National Library Board, Singapore, the University of South Africa, and the Library of Congress of Argentina as hosts of the offices for Asia-Oceania, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean respectively.

IFLA's Regional Offices and Language Centres came together in December to celebrate the completion of this process, and discuss how to enhance the Federation's ability to deliver partnerships and wider work at the regional level. A 2023 update of IFLA's Regional Advocacy Priorities Survey also provided valuable input for work planning in this area.

In the meanwhile, IFLA's Management of Library Associations Section continued in its work to share practical insights and tools which can help library associations play a full role in supporting their national fields. A series of webinars complemented the work of IFLA's regional committees and offices in identifying and responding to specific characteristics and needs.

Finally, IFLA's different volunteer groups dedicated significant time and effort to organising a rich programme of opportunities for the field to meet. 2023 saw a busy calendar both of in-person mid-term meetings and webinars, including exciting series focused on everything from school libraries to sustainability and library and information science students. In 2023, IFLA's Professional Units held

close to 600 meetings and webinars. The highlight – the World Library and Information Congress – is covered below.

Building capacity at all level is high on the agenda as we go into 2024, with this at the heart of any strategy for the long-term future of the Federation. While there will be no World Library and Information Congress, there is an inclusive and wide-ranging process to look at the model for IFLA's congresses in future, as well as plenty of other opportunities to meet, engage and learn.

## Bringing together thousands of library and information professionals

### **The World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)**

**2023** broke new ground with an unprecedented level of hybrid activities, made possible by the generous support of the Dutch National Committee. Taking this innovative approach expanded the Congress's reach, transcending geographical boundaries and promoting inclusivity within the global library and information community.

A standout feature of WLIC 2023 was the *Hubs Programme*, a digital platform for virtual meetings and presentations from different regions worldwide. With sessions livestreamed or accessible online on the conference platform and recordings available for three months following WLIC, remote attendees could actively participate in discussions and presentations across the globe. This initiative promoted knowledge exchange and collaboration on a global scale, reinforcing IFLA's commitment to facilitating dialogue and sharing best practices.

- IFLA's first hybrid WLIC
- 3080 participants, including 288 online participants
- 93 Open Sessions and 137 side sessions
- 197 accepted posters
- 6 grants for Emerging Leaders; 68 grants for online attendees
- 68 exhibitors
- Participants from 115 countries
- 24 Satellite meetings with over 900 participants

In addition, new offerings such as the *Learning Zone*, AI translation for the six plenary sessions, and *Braindate* enriched the congress experience, providing diverse opportunities for better understanding, learning, networking, and professional development.

The Opening Session featured several distinguished speakers, including Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, Rotterdam's Vice Mayor Alderman Said Kasmi, State Secretary for Culture and Media Gunay Uslu, and Minister of Education, Culture and Science Robbert Dijkgraaf. Their inspiring addresses underscored the pivotal role of libraries in advancing knowledge, culture, and social inclusion.

For 2023, IFLA WLIC continued to offer a range of popular activities and events, including the Exhibition opening party, the Public Library of the Year Award, the ENSULIB Green Library Award, the Cultural Evening at Rotterdam Zoo, and the Librarian Flashmob organised by IFLA New Professionals SIG.

The success of WLIC 2023 was made possible by the contributions of over 300 international and Dutch volunteers who facilitated the event seamlessly. Moreover, WLIC 2023 hosted an impressive 24 satellite events, providing additional opportunities for specialized discussions and networking, further enhancing the congress experience.

Also essential to the success of the Congress were IFLA's Professional Units, which organised most of active open sessions, as well as making the most of meetings across virtual spaces, engaging with a



wide range of interested and motivated participants. The commitment of IFLA's Officers was celebrated with a reception at the Centrale Bibliotheek Rotterdam (Central Library, Rotterdam).

19 engaging *VoxPop* interviews, published on our social media channels, captured the diverse perspectives and experiences of attendees. These spontaneous testimonials highlighted the congress's impact in encouraging professional growth, fostering connections, and driving positive change within the field.

WLIC 2023 achieved remarkable success, embodying innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and inclusivity, thanks to the contribution of the Dutch National Committee. As we reflect on the accomplishments of this significant gathering, we look forward to nurturing its legacy and promoting global engagement in our field as we move forward.

In 2023, SIGL supported:

- Regional workshops focused on developing stronger and more sustainable library fields in both Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. Together, these brought together over 80 participants to develop skills, build advocacy connections, and focus on how to prepare for the future.
- Three in-person Regional Division Committee meetings, two aligned with the regional workshops in Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, and one for the Middle East and North Africa Regional Division Committee. These allowed these new committees, which have a major role in building capacity to deliver, to forge connections and build energy. SIGL support also allowed our Regional Council and Regional Offices to continue to build their ability to strengthen regional library fields.
- Two commissioned research projects focused on partnerships for libraries, one focused on existing examples of major private and public donors which have supported library projects (a resource which has now been published openly), and the second an exploration of the wider partnership landscape for libraries and what is needed for them to succeed, which will guide work to support regional capacity-building in future.
- The organisation of a train-the-trainers workshop in The Hague for two librarians from each region, who are now equipped to spread knowledge and skills throughout their region. This training is transformative, giving those benefitting possibilities not just to design better projects, but also communicate about them more effectively.
- Participation of 6 emerging leaders at the 2023 World Library and Information Congress, thanks to a grant. The chosen leaders presented about trends affecting libraries' ability to deliver on development, and have subsequently helped build the Trend Report 2023 Update.

# Optimising our Organisation

*This Strategic Direction focuses how effectively IFLA as an organisation can deliver, both now and into the future. It is about engaging the widest range of members and volunteers, enabling everyone involved in the Federation to release their potential, and building the partnerships that are essential for the sustainability of IFLA and the field.*

## Our achievements.

- IFLA continues to deliver successfully on projects, demonstrating our strengths as a partner
- Membership continues to grow, alongside a continued robust pool of candidates in committee elections, as well as further progress in the regional diversity of our volunteer base
- In addition to a new President and Governing Board, IFLA recruited a new Secretary General who brings highly valuable experience to take IFLA into its second century

## The difference we made.

- “In 2023, our colleagues got a chance to be elected in the sections and committees and be more engaged in collaboration on the international level.” **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- “The IFLA membership enriches both my personal and professional life through the connections I’ve made over the last fifteen years.” **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- “IFLA membership has enabled us to build a network with global professionals, enriching our institutional knowledge and perspectives. This networking has facilitated collaborations and the sharing of best practices, which have been instrumental in improving our services and operations. Additionally, the access to a wealth of resources and learning opportunities has kept us informed about the latest trends and developments in our field, further enhancing our ability to serve our community effectively. Overall, the IFLA membership has been a key factor in our institution's growth and success.” **A representative of an IFLA institutional member**
- “We have established strong relationships with libraries around the world and actively collaborate with them.” **A representative of an IFLA Institutional member**

## Highlights

Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness, maximising inclusion and transparency for members and volunteers, and building for the future go hand in hand. With both elections and the start of a new set of mandates, 2023 was a year of further progress in building governance that is fit-for-purpose.

As mentioned previously, 2023 was an election year, and IFLA further enhanced its communication and outreach in order to ensure the widest possible participation in this. With hundreds of openings available, there was a particular focus on how to maximise regional diversity in particular on IFLA’s different committees. It was therefore welcome to see some important progress in this space, with fewer and fewer groups missing representatives from all world regions.

The highest profile result was, of course, the election of Leslie Weir as IFLA’s President-elect. She will succeed Vicki McDonald, IFLA’s President 2023-2025, who took up the role in August.

Another crucial personnel decision was the appointment of Sharon Memis as IFLA Secretary General. With strong experience of the international culture and university sector, in particular around building

partnerships, Sharon has the task of leading the Federation's headquarters team in supporting IFLA to deliver both today, and into the future.

Partnerships will be essential to IFLA's future sustainability. IFLA is very grateful to all those who funded work in 2023, and focused strongly on building its record and reputation as an effective delivery partner. Key projects, in addition to those supported by Stichting IFLA Global Libraries (covered separately) include ones focused on building tools and knowledge for document support (the HERMES project), media literacy capacity in libraries, and – significantly – the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme. This is enabled through the generosity of the Arcadia Fund, and IFLA is proud to support its delivery, helping to support advocacy for copyright law and policy reform in Europe and beyond.

Following its launch in 2021, IFLA continued to share highlights of its work with members and volunteers through the IFLA Newsletter, both informing the community and celebrating its work. The newsletter is just one element of a wider effort to enhance communication about the Federation, with IFLA's new President Vicki McDonald initiating regular email updates to members and volunteers to report on the Governing Board's work.

In particular, in setting out a clear agenda for her term in her acceptance speech at the end of the 2023 General Assembly, Vicki McDonald has looked to offer greater clarity to the IFLA Community around the Board's forward plans, and a new framework for tracking progress. This deepens the work already underway at the beginning of the year with the Plan for Securing IFLA's Future.

Already, in a message to mark 100 days of her Presidency, Vicki could highlight strong progress on key areas of focus around governance, the IFLA Congress and more. This work will continue into 2024, including with regular townhalls for members and volunteers.

Other key projects launched in 2023 will lead to results in 2024. The process of updating the IFLA Strategy kicked off with a series of four pulse surveys in October-December, which together received well over a thousand responses. Thanks to support from Stichting IFLA Global Libraries, it was also possible to commission work looking at opportunities for partnerships for libraries globally. This work will produce results which, it is hoped, can help libraries at all levels build sustainability.

In 2023, SIGL supported:

- Two commissioned research projects focused on partnerships for libraries, one focused on existing examples of major private and public donors which have supported library projects (a resource which has now been published openly), and the second an exploration of the wider partnership landscape for libraries and what is needed for them to succeed, which will guide work to support regional capacity-building in future.

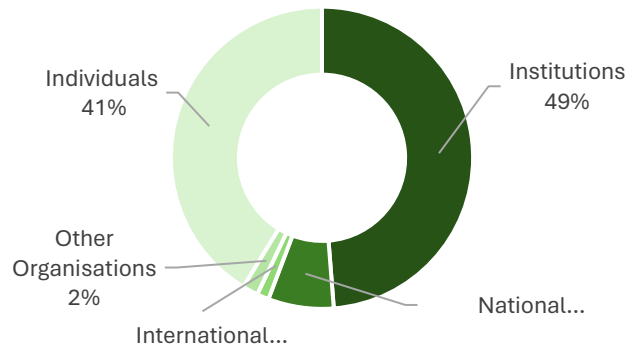
## Membership

In general, 2023 was a year of encouraging growth in IFLA's membership, particularly in Asia Oceania, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Sub-Saharan Africa. Sanctions on monetary transfers from some countries had an impact, particularly with European members who were unable to maintain their membership and this was reflected in the decrease in member numbers while Latin American countries struggled under high inflation. Nevertheless, IFLA's membership in total rose from 1662 at the beginning of the year to finish at 1725, an annual increase of 4%.

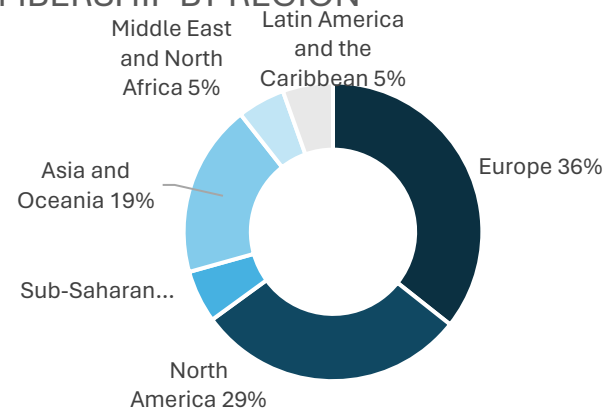
At the national level, IFLA welcomed the national libraries of Aruba and Uganda as members and library associations from Bermuda, Cambodia and Mongolia. It was particularly pleasing to welcome library associations from Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, to become members and play an increasingly active role in the IFLA's activities in their region. Numbers for university libraries increased in some regions following a campaign targeting top research libraries across the world. With IFLA's membership spanning 147 countries, we gratefully acknowledge in particular the spirit of King Abdulaziz Public Library who not only supported the membership of 15 other libraries within Saudi Arabia but conducted a workshop to spread awareness of IFLA and international librarianship among Saudi libraries.

Number of Members per Category 2022 > 2023	Asia & Oceania		Europe		Latin America & Caribbean		MENA		North America		Sub-Saharan Africa		Total		%
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	
<b>Category</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023-2022</b>
National Associations	24	24	58	60	12	17	6	7	11	10	10	9	121	127	-5%
International Associations	1	2	8	8	1	1	1	1	8	7	3	2	22	21	5%
Institutions	154	150	405	429	49	46	53	33	115	101	65	57	841	816	3%
Individuals	133	111	132	145	31	35	29	27	368	340	19	17	712	675	5%
Other Organisations	11	7	12	12	1	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	29	23	26%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1725</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>2022 &gt; 2023%</b>		<b>10%</b>		<b>-6%</b>		<b>-5%</b>		<b>31%</b>		<b>10%</b>		<b>15%</b>		<b>4%</b>	
Total Organisations	190	183	483	509	63	64	60	41	138	122	79	68	1013	987	3%
<b>2022 &gt; 2023%</b>		<b>4%</b>		<b>-5%</b>		<b>-2%</b>		<b>46%</b>		<b>13%</b>		<b>16%</b>		<b>3%</b>	
Total Individuals	133	111	132	145	31	35	29	27	368	340	19	17	712	675	5%
<b>2022 &gt; 2023%</b>		<b>20%</b>		<b>-9%</b>		<b>-11%</b>		<b>7%</b>		<b>8%</b>		<b>12%</b>		<b>5%</b>	

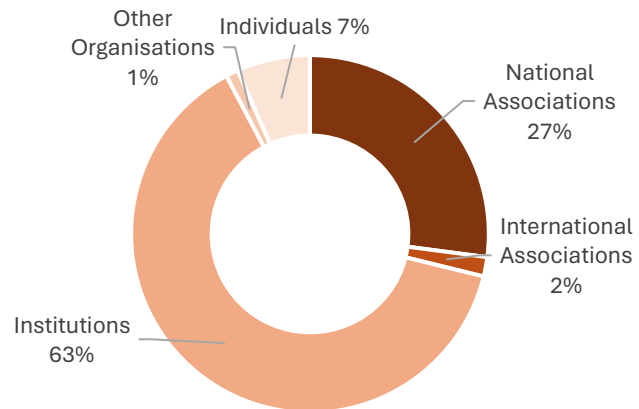
## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES



## MEMBERSHIP BY REGION



## Membership Income



# Our membership on the map



# About IFLA

## 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 1700 Members – leading institutions and players in the library field – in over 140 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.

IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation.

We aim 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.

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

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

## Core Values

In pursuing our Vision and Mission, IFLA seeks to demonstrate the following 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 help guarantee that access;
4. the commitment to promote and value diversity and inclusion, notably as regards age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender-identity, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and actively pursue relevant policies and practices.

## Our team

---

### Governing Board 2021-2023 (Serving in 2023)

**Barbara Lison**, Germany (President)  
**Vicki McDonald**, Australia (President-elect)  
**Jaap Naber**, Netherlands (Treasurer)  
**Te Paea Paringatai**, Aotearoa [New Zealand]  
(Chair, Professional Council)  
**Kirsten Boelt**, Demark  
**Jonathan Hernández Pérez**, Mexico  
**Yasuyo Inoue**, Japan  
**Ayub Khan**, United Kingdom  
**Mandla Ntombela**, South Africa

**Nthabiseng Kotsokoane**, South Africa (Chair, Regional Council)  
**Halo Locher**, Switzerland (Chair, MLAS) (to April 2023)  
**Loida Garcia Febo**, United States (Chair, MLAS) (from April 2023)

**Secretary: Helen Mandl**,  
Acting IFLA Secretary General (Until May 2023)

**Secretary: Sharon Memis**,  
IFLA Secretary General (From June 2023)

### Governing Board 2023-2025 (Serving in 2023)

**Vicki McDonald**, Australia (President)  
**Leslie Weir**, Canada (President-elect)  
**Jaap Naber**, Netherlands (Treasurer)  
**Te Paea Paringatai**, Aotearoa [New Zealand]  
(Chair, Professional Council)  
**Dilara Begum** Bangladesh  
**Kirsten Boelt**, Denmark  
**Stuart Hamilton**, Mexico  
**Nthabiseng Kotsokoane**, South Africa  
**Silvia Stasselová**, Slovakia

**Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa**, Argentina (Chair, Regional Council)  
**Loida Garcia-Febo**, United States of America (Chair, MLAS) (From April 2023)

**Secretary: Sharon Memis**,  
IFLA Secretary General

### IFLA Headquarters Staff 2023

IFLA's Headquarters is located in The Hague, The Netherlands.

**Sharon Memis**  
Secretary General (from June 2023)

**Robin Chan**  
Administrative Assistant (Data and Outreach)

**Farah Almazouni**  
Communications Officer

**Esther Doria**  
Project Coordination Assistant

**Cristina Baró Miró**  
Communications Officer

**Anne Korhonen**  
Administrative Assistant

**Maria de Brasdefer**  
Digital Affairs Officer

**Helen Mandl**  
Director, Member Services / Deputy Secretary General



**Marie-Emmanuelle Marande**  
Conference Manager

**Claire McGuire**  
Policy and Research Officer

**Kristīne Pabērza Ramiresa**  
Member Engagement Officer

**Lidia Putziger**  
Administrative Officer / Nominations  
Coordinator

**Renu Sardjoe Mishre**  
Finance Director

**Louis Takács**  
Communications Officer

**Matt Voigts**  
Policy and Research Officer

**Vesna Vuksan**  
Strategic Projects Manager

**Leonie Woodfin**  
Communications Officer

**Stephen Wyber**  
Director, Policy and Advocacy

## Contractors

**Sophie Felföldi**  
Mailing List Administrator

**Despina Gerasimidou**  
Strategic Development Officer

**Birgit Gleiss**  
Human Resources Advisor

**Megan Price**  
Professional Support Officer

**Vesselina Vassileva**  
Member Services Officer

## Professional structure

IFLA's Professional Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) represent global expertise across sectors, services and lead in the emerging trends of the library and information field. Whether it be policy, guidelines, best practices or other forms of professional development, IFLA's Professional Units are the field's go-to global library and information resource and community of practice.

Members and professionals work together through IFLA's 42 Sections and 11 SIGs 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.

With the transition of our volunteer base through our biennial elections in 2023, outgoing volunteers handed over the reins to friends and colleagues to progress work and develop solutions for their part of the LIS sector and the field as a whole.

Professional Council Chair, Te Paea Paringatai (New Zealand) was re-elected to serve a full term as IFLA's professional structure leader. Professional Council members worked in subcommittees to progress policy and facilitate Professional Unit work, organised and supported the development of WLIC Open Sessions and Satellite meetings, contributed to maintaining the relevance of the Rules of Procedure, and adopted new project applications to further collaboration across the organisation on Professional Unit projects.

## Regional structure

IFLA has six Regional Division Committees which work to strengthen the voice of regions within IFLA, as well as to extend 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.

2023 was a watershed year for our regional structures, with a changeover from the first to the second mandates of our Regional Council and Regional Division Committees. These different groups were one of the most prominent results of our Governance Review of 2019-21, designed both to raise the voice of regions within IFLA, and to increase IFLA's ability to deliver regionally relevant activities.

Under the guidance of Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, its first Chair, the Regional Council was able to develop its role as a place for exchanging perspectives and deepening understanding, as well as for building experience of how to ensure Regional Division Committees themselves were performing. The Council also took a leading role in shaping IFLA's approach to the Sustainable Development Goals and internet governance, as well as overseeing a new Regional Advocacy Priorities Survey. The richness of the Council's work was on show at a special session at the World Library and Information Congress in Rotterdam.

IFLA is grateful to all of the Council's members in 2021-2023 – Winston Roberts (Asia-Oceania), Imad Bachir (Middle East and North Africa), Sarah Kaddu (Sub-Saharan Africa), Stuart Hamilton (Europe), Alejandro Santa (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Julius Jefferson (North America) – for their contributions, as well as to both Jan Richards and Te Paea Paringatai who served as Professional Council liaisons.

The Council's second term (2023-2025) takes place under the leadership of Alejandro Santa, and has an intensified focus on finding opportunities for exchange and communication, as well as potential contributions to the future sustainability of IFLA. The other members of the Council are Lin Li Soh (Asia-Oceania), Saif Al Jabri (Middle East and North Africa), Ayanda Lebele (Sub-Saharan Africa), Ertugrul Cimen (Europe), Jeannette Lebron Ramos (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Diane Koen (North America). Te Paea Paringatai serves as Professional Council liaison.

## 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. They focus, in particular, on cross-cutting issues, and have a key role both in raising awareness and coordination within the field, as well as in engaging with external partners and stakeholders.

A key step in 2023 was the launch of our Open Science and Scholarship Advisory Committee. The Committees and their chairs are as follows:

Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (Chairs: Sara Benson (to August 2023), Melissa Levine (from August 2023))

Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage (Chairs: Ramesh Gaur (to August 2023), Helen Vincent (from August 2023))

Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (Chairs: Ellen Tise (to August 2023), Jonathan Hernandez-Perez (from August 2023))

Advisory Committee on Open Science and Scholarship (Chair: Fiona Bradley (from November 2023))

Advisory Committee on Standards (Chair: Victoria Owen)

## Regional Offices

Three Regional Offices in South Africa, Singapore, and Argentina all work with their relevant committees, as well as providing wider support to IFLA membership.

### **AFRICA**

Lindy Nhlapo  
Regional Manager  
University of South Africa, Pretoria

### **ASIA & OCEANIA**

Lin Li Soh  
Regional Manager  
National Library Board, Singapore

### **LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**

Isela María Mo Amavet  
Regional Manager  
Library of the National Congress, Argentina

A further major step in 2023 was the public call for candidates for hosts for IFLA's existing Asia-Oceania, Latin American and Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan African Regional Offices, as well as a new one for the Middle East and North Africa. IFLA is grateful to the National Library Board of Singapore, the Library of Congress of Argentina and the University of South Africa for their willingness to continue

in these roles, and to Qatar National Library for standing up to be our first office in the MENA region. The Regional Offices start their new mandates in 2024.

## Language Centres

Three 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. These activities include the publication and/or translation of newsletters, key IFLA documents, guidelines, press releases, and Congress papers.

### ARABIC

#### **Dina Youssef**

Director IFLA Centre for Arabic Speaking Libraries (IFLA-CASL)  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

#### **Khaled Fouad**

IFLA-CASL Coordinator  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

### CHINESE

#### **Zhang Xu**

Director  
International Cooperation Division, National Library of China, Beijing

#### **Hao Jinmin**

Program Officer  
International Cooperation Division, National Library of China, Beijing

### FRENCH (IN AFRICA)

#### **Papa Arona Ndiaye**

Director, Language Centre for French (in Africa) Central Library  
Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal

#### **Mandiaye Ndiaye**

Assistant, Language Centre for French (in Africa) Central Library  
Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal

## 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 Organization

(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).

# Honours and Awards

IFLA's Honours and Awards recognise those who have given significant service and made distinguished contributions to the profession.

## IFLA Honorary Fellow

### **Christine Mackenzie**

In recognition of distinguished service to IFLA and the global library field.

## IFLA Medal

### **Janine Schmidt**

For distinguished service to IFLA and international librarianship, championing innovative library buildings and design, mentoring authors, and enabling as editor diverse works for IFLA Publications.

## IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The following recipients were awarded the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation:

### **National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 88th IFLA General Conference**

Theo Kemperman, Chair and Co-Chairs Lily Knibbeler, Matthijs van Otegem, Klaas Gravesteijn, Henk Snier, Ineke van der Kramer, and Sander van Kempen of the Dutch National Committee received the award.

### **Alicia Cristina Ocaso Ferreira**

For her distinguished contribution to IFLA, developing networks to connect librarians, and as a trainer and mentor to professionals and associations in the Latin American region. Her outstanding efforts to advocate for copyright legislation improvements have enabled libraries to innovate services for their communities and develop as spaces for democratic access to information and opportunities.

### **Harri Sahavirta**

For his distinguished contribution to IFLA in the areas of sustainability and the environment in libraries. His tireless promotion and engagement with members has increased awareness and expanded the development of the international green library movement for the betterment of the profession and society.

# Professional Awards

IFLA's Professional Awards are presented by IFLA Committees. They recognise the contribution of an individual or an organisation to the professional activities of IFLA or to international library and information services sector more broadly in a specific professional area.

## IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award

A dynamic Professional Unit has the greatest impact on IFLA's global work – engaging members, developing strong leadership and identity, delivering high-quality services with a measurable impact, and communicating activities within IFLA and beyond. The Professional Committee (now Council) launched the Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards (DUIAs) to recognise the Professional Units who have excelled in putting Dynamic Unit goals into practice.

### **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Overall Achievement:** Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB)

Among their many initiatives, Dynamic Unit and Impact Award (DUIA) Overall Achievement winners, the IFLA Environment, Sustainability and Libraries (ENSULIB) Section is a dynamic community of library professionals and advocates who are committed to integrating sustainability into library practices and raising awareness of environmental issues through library programs and services.

They were awarded the **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Overall Achievement**, for excellence and outstanding efforts in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability within the library community and beyond.

ENSULIB has demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing green initiatives, developing eco-consciousness, and championing the integration of sustainable practices within the library worldwide with committee projects such as The IFLA Green Library Award, The Green Library Definition (currently translated into 31 languages) and their Green Library poster for libraries, the Green Library website and checklist and more. Through their newsletter and webinar series, ENSULIB has aimed to inspire libraries to adopt green practices, reduce their carbon footprint, and engage their patrons in environmentally-conscious programmes and projects.

ENSULIB's dedication to sustainability demonstrates that libraries can lead by example in creating a greener, more sustainable future for all. The Professional Council acknowledges the profound impact of ENSULIB's work and encourages further collaborative efforts to create an environmentally resilient world. The Chair of ENSULIB, Harri Sahavirta, accepted the award on behalf of the Section.

### **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Quality and Impact of the Work:** Library History Special Interest Group

The **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Quality and Impact of the Work** was awarded to the IFLA Library History Special Interest Group, recognised for their outstanding contributions and dedication toward advancing awareness of library history. The award recognised the influence and positive outcomes generated by the SIG's work, research, and initiatives in preserving and promoting library history, particularly around their oral history project. Since 2018, the SIG has been collecting and recording oral histories for persons associated with IFLA's history.

### **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Effective Communication:** Management and Marketing Section

The **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Effective Communication** was awarded to the IFLA Management and Marketing (M&M) Section, recognised for their outstanding ability to convey message, engage with their audience, and effectively promote their committee's work. Through their

communication efforts, they have reached a global audience, including librarians, library managers and other information professionals, helping them understand the role of management and marketing in today's libraries. The M&M Section has demonstrated their commitment to sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative ideas with the library community. The Section's "IFLA PressReader International Marketing Award", Management Skill Blog and management events, such as webinars, workshops and their collaborative coaching initiative, have effectively delivered valuable insights and information to professionals in the field.

**Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Member Engagement & Leadership Development:**  
Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section

The **Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Member Engagement & Leadership Development** was awarded to the IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) Section. CPDWL embraces all aspects of professional development and learning in the workplace. This award recognises the section's dedication to advancing professional development in the library and information field through engagement and leadership development among library professionals worldwide. Their efforts have helped empower individuals to enhance their skills, embrace new challenges, and take on leadership roles within the profession.

Initiatives such as their ongoing collaborative coaching project, podcast and webinar series, and their ever-evolving CPD Guidelines, build strong professional communities and support the next generation of library leaders. The section has launched initiatives that emphasise mentoring, leadership development, and skill improvement, ensuring a holistic approach to professional growth.



## Best IFLA Poster 2023

### **Open up your digital library!**

Jessica Wevers and Ron Hol  
The Netherlands

## IFLA Poster 2023 – WLIC Viewers' Choice

### **Smart Solat @ Raja Tun Uda Library**

Nor Chempawan Mat Abu and Mohamad Haniff  
Malaysia

## Visual Impact

### **Voices behind words**

Jelena Lesaja and Karolina Zlatar Radigovic  
Croatia

# Treasurer's statement

[Placeholder for the Report on the Annual Accounts 2023 by the IFLA Treasurer]

# Donors, sponsors and partners

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 2023.

- 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
- Stichting IFLA Global Libraries
- 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
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Stichting IFLA Foundation
- Arcadia Fund

## Special thanks

IFLA is grateful to the Arcadia Fund for its ongoing support for the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme, in which IFLA plays a central role. This enables the creation of materials that support advocacy for copyright reform globally, as well as enabling increased capacity for organisation and action in Europe.

IFLA appreciates Stichting IFLA Global Libraries for its support in 2023, which enabled activities across all our strategic directions. We had the opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved since the launch of SIGL with a mid-term report released at the time of the 2023 World Library and Information Congress.

IFLA is also thankful to the European Commission for its support for different IFLA projects, notably focused on resource sharing and media literacy, that are allowing libraries to enjoy new possibilities to meet users' needs.

## World Library and Information Congress 2023 sponsors and partners

### Platinum

- OCLC

### Bronze

- Royal Society of Chemistry

### Associate

- Clarivate

- EBSCO
- ISSN
- Kazakhstan Academic Libraries Association/ Meet Kazakhstan
- MDPI AG
- San Jose State University: School of Information
- Sonic Chair

### **Supporting Partners**

- NBD Biblion
- Vereniging Openbare Bibliotheken
- KB Nationale Bibliotheek
- Gemeente Rotterdam
- De Bibliotheek rotterdam
- Samenwerkende POI's Nederland
- Rotterdam Partners
- Centraal Boekhuis

### **Hub Partners**

- North America – Mortensen Centre for International Library Program and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
- MENA – Qatar National Library
- Sub-Saharan Africa – University of South Africa Library
- Asia Oceania – DELNET Developing Library Network

Thank you for helping to make WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam an outstanding success.