


Honorary Fellow Citation for

Glòria Pérez-Salmerón



A proven ability to bring together different parts of the library world helped Glòria Pérez Salmerón change mindsets and engender enthusiasm for a positive and pro-active attitude to the future for libraries. Glòria marked IFLA with her own personality, ensuring that through the Global Vision process and development of the IFLA Strategy 2019-2024, everyone felt included and engaged in the Federation's work.

In her long and varied professional career, Glòria has been involved in library services and management at all levels, from local public libraries to Spain's highest position as Director of the Spanish national library, the Biblioteca Nacional de España. Through her association work as President of the Spanish library federation, FESABID and at the European and global levels, she has demonstrated her capacity to motivate the profession. A particular component of her leadership has been her work with politicians, an area of engagement that does not always come easily to the field. Glòria opened the eyes of many to the importance of advocacy and built confidence and skills among professionals, encouraging them to engage themselves. Her reminder to show that libraries are an investment, not a cost, has inspired colleagues to measure and demonstrate impact, and to speak out.

Glòria served IFLA as a member of the Public Libraries Section Standing Committee from 2005 – 2012 and as a member of the Governing Board from 2013-2017. She became IFLA's first Hispanophone President in 2017 and created a very strong legacy of working to include professionals from countries which do not use English as a first language. Standing as an example to them, she made IFLA a reality for library associations and libraries in the Latin America and Caribbean region, leading to an increased involvement within IFLA, and strengthening the organisation as a whole.

Applying her presidential theme of 'Libraries: motors of change', Glòria underlined her conviction that mobilised, organised and empowered libraries can improve the lives of their communities and deliver on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. She oversaw the delivery of IFLA's Global Vision process, a global discussion on opportunities for libraries, where all were welcome and motivated to contribute. Her tireless engagement in workshops, conferences and other events around the world underpinned an unprecedented mobilisation of the global library field, with a new sense of belonging and atmosphere across the organisation. From the results of the Global Vision came the IFLA Strategy 2019-2024, a document not only for IFLA but for the library field as a whole, a catalyst for a new energy and a revitalised alignment of combined efforts.

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. 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.