

The global voice of the library and information profession



image: Pirjo Sallmen

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. IFLA is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization with over 1400 members in nearly 150 countries.

Our work

We work to improve access to information and cultural heritage resources for the global community in this rapidly changing digital and print environment. Our key initiatives include access to digital content, international leadership, outreach, cultural heritage, and multilingualism. In our professional programmes we build the capacity of our members, and set the professional agenda through development of guidelines, standards, publications and events around the world.

IFLA's status as the global organisation for library and information services ensures that our voice is represented through formal relations with the UN and other organisations.

Our aims

- 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.

Strategic Programmes

IFLA's Strategic Programmes enable 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, preservation and conservation, and bibliographic standards.

Regional Activities and Headquarters

Three Regional Offices in South Africa, Singapore, and Mexico work in coordination with regional sections representing Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

Sections and Special Interest Groups

Members and professionals work together through IFLA's Sections and Special Interest Groups to further the development of the profession.

Sections specialise in a particular type of library and information service, or 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 indigenous matters and national information policy.



image: National Library of Norway © the National Library of Norway/Ketil Born

Benefits of IFLA Membership

Membership in IFLA gives your association or institution the opportunity to contribute and benefit from advocacy at the international level for access to information in the digital environment, copyright and other legal frameworks impacting libraries, and preservation of cultural heritage. Our professional programme supports your organisation and your staff, and includes standards, guidelines, publications, and capacity building.

IFLA members:

- Benefit from and have opportunity to participate in our advocacy at the highest international levels on behalf of all library users, globally;
- Share expertise for the benefit of others, and their own organisation;
- Have access, and contribute to, professional development including standards, guidelines, and training materials;
- Receive IFLA Journal quarterly;
- Receive discounts on:
 - Publications including the IFLA Publications Series published by De Gruyter;
 - Registration at our Annual Congress;
- No surcharge on IFLA ILL vouchers;
- Join and contribute to sections in their field of interest;
- Members participate in the governance of IFLA by voting in elections for the President, Governing Board and Standing Committees, and resolutions at our General Assembly.

Membership and Affiliation categories

Associations of libraries, library and information professionals, and associations in related professions including education and research.

Institutional members include organisations providing services to libraries or delivering library and information services.

Our Affiliates include individuals, students, smaller associations, and other institutional bodies who join IFLA to mark their support of IFLA's aims and mission. They do not have voting rights, but receive all the other benefits of membership.

Publishing Programme

Our publishing programme includes conference papers, guidelines, professional standards and manifestos to support development of the profession are available through IFLA's website.

IFLA Journal is published by Sage four times a year and includes articles on topics that span the breadth of the profession. The IFLA Publications Series, published by De Gruyter includes volumes on a range of professional issues. The Professional Reports Series feature reports of professional practice and guidelines.

Corporate supporters

Corporate supporters include companies, vendors, and other organisations providing services to the information industry. Corporate supporters receive a range of benefits including opportunities to present products and services to our worldwide membership and recognition for support to IFLA.

Events and Annual Congress

Our Annual General Conference and Assembly attracts more than three thousand participants for the professional programme and exhibition, meetings, networking, and to conduct the business of IFLA.

IFLA supports a number of regional activities in collaboration with IFLA sections, regional offices and partners each year.



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