

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions



I Division
of
General Research Libraries

National Libraries Section

The National Libraries Section Mission

The IFLA National Libraries Section is a focal point for supporting the vital role of national libraries in society as custodians of the nations' intellectual heritage, thus providing organisation, access to and preservation of the national imprint in all media.

The Section aims at providing leadership in the areas of concern to national libraries, always in recognition of the needs and views of every region of the world.

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/snl.htm>

IFLA's three pillars

The Section's activities and goals underpin IFLA's three pillars, in particular: Society Pillar through its work in WSIS and its support of national libraries world-wide; the Profession Pillar through its support and cooperation with ICABS and its professional practice and the Member Pillar through its information services (e-list, leaflets and newsletter).

Aims:

To promote the universal availability of information by:

- encouraging the creation and building of national libraries,
- promoting the development of national legislation for national libraries, especially legal deposit dispositions and preservation activities ;
- promoting the convergence of information and heritage institutions.

To serve as a forum to share and learn from the experience of the practical problems of national libraries, in order to promote benchmarking, best practices and quality models, and to improve management skills.

To promote research in fields of interest to national libraries, always considering the opportunities to share experiences with other groups within IFLA and in close cooperation with CDNL, Conference of Directors of National Libraries.

To promote the development and implementation of standards.

Some current projects and activities

- Working Group on benchmarking and performance indicators will develop a workplan and further activities to proceed within the Section;
- survey on performance measurements, (already distributed in Europe, Asia and Oceania) for South-America and the Caribbean;
- supporting and cooperating with ICABS (IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards) in their work plan regarding bibliographic and resource control and long-term archiving of electronic resources;
- encouraging members to lobby within their countries in support of IFLA's efforts within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to promote the essential role of libraries in the Information Society and to help reduce the digital divide.

Future conference topics

National Libraries: Dynamic Partners for the Knowledge Society, Seoul 2006

Co-sponsoring the next IFLA Meetings of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code, organized by the Cataloguing Section, and scheduled for 2006

Satellite meeting in Durban 2007 with the Division on Education and Training on the new skills needed (curatorial management, etc.) in new knowledge institutions.



Who can join

Membership in IFLA and in the National Libraries Section is open to all associations and institutions; affiliation is available to individuals. For further information on joining IFLA and registering for the National Libraries Section, contact:

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