

Stichting IFLA Global Libraries

Report on Activities 2022

Background

Stichting IFLA Global Libraries (SIGL), an independent public benefit foundation, was established in 2016 to support the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) as a legacy partner of Global Libraries.

The object of the foundation, which is exclusively charitable and educational, is to strengthen the library field and to empower public libraries to improve people's lives and support growth of sustainable societies.

This report will focus on the activities undertaken by IFLA in support on the legacy initiatives throughout 2022.

Overview of phases and implementation

IFLA's Legacy grant is shaped in three phases:

1. Discover and Launch (2017-2018)

As initially planned, this phase established a collective Global Vision (GV) among IFLA members and the library field and engaged IFLA's Professional Units and members in synchronized planning to achieve the vision that will catalyse and promote change. It built a strong foundation for subsequent phases and prepared grounds for developing strong library metrics for better advocacy by launching the first Library Map of the World (LMW) and Development and Access to Information (DA2I) report.

2. Implement and Amplify (2018-2022)

This phase aims at implementing strategic and operational plans developed in phase one and aligns IFLA's work to implement the Vision around an ongoing consultative cycle. It uses capacity building and knowledge sharing to build, connect and mobilize efforts of leaders at the national level, and begins the shift to strong regional leadership that will facilitate regional cooperation and progress on common challenges.

3. Grow and Thrive (2023-2026)

This phase will see IFLA and the library field reaching full capacity and operating with increased effectiveness and impact. All the work to build capacity and expertise will be in place and results will begin to be fully realized. Library leaders will be able to assess and communicate impact on local communities and at the national level to advocate for funding, resources and enabling policy environments. A cycle of strategic renewal and progression will be well-established that will ensure sustainability and lay the foundation for action beyond legacy.

The main activities to deliver started in the year 2017 and have continued over subsequent years, including in 2022:

1. Convene the library field to develop a global vision for the future of libraries that only a strong and connected library field can achieve. With the result of the Global Vision discussion (2017 and 2018), the IFLA Strategy was developed in an inclusive way with all members (2018-2019) and launched in August 2019. Since then we have both focused on the implementation of the Strategy, working with Members and sections alike, and reformed IFLA's governance to match the ambition of the Strategy.
2. Conduct a membership survey to understand what members value in IFLA and what they hope for the future of IFLA (completed in 2018).
3. Create a plan to develop capacity to support regional operations and national development and learning (ongoing, linked to point 1).
4. Library Map of the World/Development and Access to Information (DA2I) Report (ongoing).
5. Planning for Leader Mobilization (ongoing).
6. Launch campaigns to support the library field to adopt community engagement and outcome measurement (ongoing).
7. Modernise the IFLA website in order to ensure that it can act as an effective hub and support for the global library field (2018-2022, with ongoing changes).
8. Enable the updating of IFLA's governance to ensure that it can better support the global library field into the future (2019-2022).

Key highlights 2022 are as follows:

The restrictions on travel around the world meant that many projects were not possible in the first part of 2022. Nonetheless, 2022 was a year of renewed delivery against the priorities of the Foundation, thanks to renewed possibilities to travel and engage both with each other and external stakeholders in the second part of 2022.

Research and Innovation

- We have continued our series of Trend Report updates in order both to share new ideas in the field, and provide a structure for reflection at all levels about how best to prepare for the future.
- We have given hundreds of librarians a grounding in the basics of needs assessment and impact evaluation as a crucial basis for promoting innovation and effective services around the world.
- Continued to develop the Library Map of the World, maintaining and broadening its relevance as a resource for both libraries and external stakeholders in advocacy and planning.

Training and leadership order to support them in their careers

We have refocused our grants programme for the Congress on enabling the participation of emerging leaders, giving a cohort of international librarians new insights and new profile in order to support them in their careers.

Delivery

- We have revised our model of regional workshops in order to focus on practical tools and opportunities for promoting the sustainability of library fields, and include direct engagement with UN officials and experts, leading to renewed engagement and activism within associations.
- Enabled our new regional structures to grow into their roles through ongoing support, and an in-person meeting of the Regional Council. This has reinforced ILA's capacity to deliver on engaging and effective regional action plans. We have also held a retreat with IFLA's Regional Offices, allowing us to update our approach to working with them, and develop a new concept for how they can help deliver stronger regional library fields.
- Continued to support IFLA to implement ILA's new governance structures, supporting volunteers to make the most of the opportunities created, and so in turn to produce more effective and relevant outputs to support the field.

Impact, Advocacy and Policy

- Delivered the strongest library presence yet at regional sustainable development fora, underlining the relevance of libraries as partners for development at all levels.
- Used the UN High Level Political Forum as an opportunity to build strong links between libraries and national leaders (in particular from broader development authorities) which have led to new opportunities and influence at home.
- Drawn on the potential of the (by SIGL financed) new IFLA website and repository to offer a worthwhile platform for the rich and varied selection of content created by our volunteers and IFLA's HQ team.