

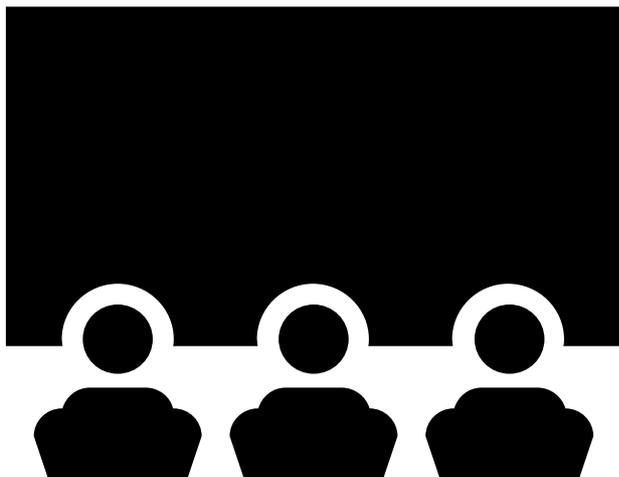


GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the Standing Committee of IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments meeting

‘How a united library field can tackle the
challenges of the future – Ideas for actions’

9 July 2018



Contributors

This report is created by: Karin Finer, Secretary IFLAPARL

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Karin Finer, Lillian Gassie, Steve Wise, Christine Wellems, Cecilia Izquierdo, Iain Watt, Janice Silveira, Sonia Bebbington

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Introduction

On 9 July 2018, 8 members from the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together all participants represent 243 years of library experience.

We built on the results from phase 1 of the conversation to gather ideas for actions for IFLA that help a united field tackle the challenges of the future. This is our contribution to **the largest ideas store of actions**.

The discussions and suggestions reflect a general, as well as a parliamentary perspective.

About the participants

The participants in the workshop are divided by experience in the field in the following way:

Years of experience in libraries	Number of participants
1-10 years of experience	0
11-20 years of experience	1
21-30 years of experience	2
31+ years of experience	5

Each participant shared in which type of library they have most experience:

Years of experience in libraries	Number of participants
National Libraries	0
Academic and Research Libraries	0
Public Libraries	1
School Libraries	0
Special Libraries	0
Other Types of Libraries / Parliamentary Libraries	7
Not a librarian	0

Opportunities for the Professional Unit or Committee

In phase 1 of IFLA's global vision discussion, ten opportunities have been discovered for the library field. Given the work and expertise of our Professional Unit or Committee, the following opportunities are most relevant to us:

THE TOP-3 OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED

- 6 **We need to ensure stakeholders understand our value and impact**

Making a stronger case for the ability of libraries to provide value will build recognition and support among decision-makers.

- 8 **We need to challenge current structures and behaviours**

Overcoming our passive mindset and embracing innovation and change will allow us to tackle the challenges facing the library field.

- 10 **We must give young professionals effective opportunities to learn, develop and lead**

The field's capacity to develop and connect young library professionals has to keep up with changing needs and allow them to become the leaders of the future.

Ideas for action

To realise the opportunities identified in the first phase of the Global Vision discussion, we focused on creating ideas for actions. These ideas will be entered into the ideas store for action of IFLA. Our recommended actions for each of the top-3 opportunities and the specially highlighted opportunities 5 (advocacy) and 7 (collaboration) are:

Ideas for action for opportunity 6: We need to ensure stakeholders understand our value and impact

The top-5 ideas for action our Professional Unit/Committee could consider to realise the opportunity:

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1. Create case studies of how IFLAPARL has helped developing parliamentary services (e.g. capacity building, assignments, published guidelines, etc.) – publish these on website, through national/regional library associations and international bodies.
 2. Join IFLA HQ in broad advocacy projects (e.g. ‘good governance’ project).
 3. Develop a capacity building program within parliamentary libraries to give leaders and staff the necessary skills to assess MPs changing information needs and to innovate to address them.
 4. Look at ways of publicising services – communications and promotion plan(/template) for research briefings, legislation & public-facing services or similar.
 5. Find new ways to reach out and inform about activities, e.g. organise Open Days in own institutions for other professionals to learn about what we do and the value it has, video-record IFLAPARL conferences and create webinars.
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Ideas for action for opportunity 8: We need to challenge current structures and behaviours

The top-5 ideas for action our Professional Unit/Committee could consider to realise the opportunity:

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1. Develop way to involve membership as a whole in planning and activities, rather than just relying on SC Members. Use a social media tool to act as a Basecamp for membership at large.
 2. Create one/two parallel networks to the IFLAPARL Standing Committee. First would be at next level – staff who will be next generation of leaders. Second would be for young/new/enthusiastic staff, full of ideas.
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3. Work with IFLA to develop a less hierarchical/rigid and more flexible structure that encourages greater involvement across the membership.

4. Look at ways to apply Design Thinking to develop new, or enhance the existing, services to parliamentary clients.

5. Find out from IFLAPARL members the actual challenges they face (survey). Follow up within the Section to see how those challenges have been addressed and share best practice.

Ideas for action for opportunity 10: We must give young professionals effective opportunities to learn, develop and lead

The top-5 ideas for action our Professional Unit/Committee could consider to realise the opportunity:

1. As per Opportunity 8, create a parallel network to the IFLAPARL SC for young/new/enthusiastic staff, full of ideas. Connect them and give them area of Action Plan to work on and then present their work at Pre-Conference.

2. As per Opportunity 6, IFLAPARL to organise Open Days in their institutions for young professionals to learn about what we do and the value it has.

3. Work with IPU/WFD/others to sponsor programmes for young professionals in developing institutions to shadow or work in other IFLAPARL institutions.

4. IFLAPARL members could do some short YouTube-style films about different challenges each of us face. how we are tackling them and promote a discussion around them.

5. Provide help and support to new professionals on how to progress in their career. Use IFLAPARL network to mentor staff from other IFLAPARL and developing institutions.

Ideas for action for opportunity 5: advocacy

Five bold actions our Professional Unit /Committee could undertake to advocate for libraries:

1. Embark on outreach activities to advocate for the role of parliamentary libraries and research services, connect the work to results/impact and tell the success stories.
 2. Promote networking between parliamentary libraries and other library types to increase visibility.
 3. Promote the work of parliamentary libraries and research services at all levels (i.e. not just in parliaments, e.g. at national library meetings, give talks to college students). Get on the agenda of national and international meetings to inform others.
 4. Provide support for improving our ability to gather and apply feedback from our clients, and our ability to use evidence-based assessment and evaluation for our products and services.
 5. Partner with other organisations that are more advocacy-based.
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Ideas for action for opportunity 7: collaboration

Five bold actions could your Professional Unit/Committee undertake to improve collaboration within IFLA and with external people and partners:

1. Be aware of what is happening around us, so that we can seize opportunities to collaborate.
 2. Collaborating more with other Sections in IFLA and other library organisations on specific projects - find common causes and encourage IFLAPARL members to participate in working groups and initiatives.
 3. Collaborate on continuing education and professional development programmes.
 4. Collaborate with external partners interested in democracy capacity building (IPU, UNDP, national governments etc) to seek an academic partner to establish a global 'institute' for parliamentary library & research services - to act as a centre for study of related services, train staff and Members, develop guidelines/handbooks and offer opportunities for academic research on use of evidence in parliaments.
 5. Look at ways we can use knowledge, skills and experience of IFLAPARL members in wider 'public good' projects, working with partners interested in quality of democracy & public information. Recent example of UK House of Commons, which teamed up with external partners to tackle 'fake news' in the election campaign.
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A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process via online conversation until 9 July 2018. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future, currently in phase 2.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. In the beginning of 2019, the results of all the workshops and online discussions will be presented to IFLA's GB, which in turn will use the ideas for actions to create concrete strategies, processes and work programmes for the future.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit <https://www.ifla.org/globalvision>.

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following [#iflaGlobalVision](https://twitter.com/iflaGlobalVision) and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on <https://www.ifla.org/globalvision>.