

# **Advocacy for United Libraries: Strategic Vision and Key Initiatives for Preserving Cultural Heritage and Promoting the UN 2030 Agenda**

**Reysa C. Alenzuela, PhD, MLIS  
Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan**

**Description/ Abstract:** *This presentation provides an overview of the global projects and programs of the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) where libraries in Uzbekistan can participate. Specifically, the discussion will emphasize the four strategic directions: Libraries in Society, Information and Knowledge, Cultural Heritage, and Capacity Building. The session also hopes to increase awareness of librarians on their important role in advocating for the UN 2030 agenda, promoting access to information. Ultimately, it hopes to come up with strategies on how libraries in Uzbekistan can collaborate with other libraries in Central Asia towards more dynamic and meaningful programs related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.*

## **Introduction**

Access to information is an essential tool in national development. The growing need for advocating global agenda is a pressing issue for libraries amidst the changing roles of libraries and librarians. The evolving services delivered by libraries makes the work of professionals more important in the knowledge society. Collections have expanded to different types of resources where information that for cultural preservation become an important part; services are no longer about guiding users to find books. Nowadays, the focus of the work is searching the right information in the huge amount of data or preserving knowledge of the past. Services require efficiency and integration of technology. Librarians must also care for different groups from multicultural background. Nowadays, libraries around the globe talk about quality assurance and accreditation. We consider libraries not as repository of books but as spaces where people can discuss, can create new ideas. Even finding financial support has become essential in library management. The task has become more complicated but the positive side is libraries around the world help each other.

This presentation is about possibilities for making our libraries grow and how librarians' role can play an important contribution in the global concerns.

## **Objectives:**

- Provide an overview of the global projects and programs of the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) where libraries in Uzbekistan can participate.
- Explain the four strategic directions: Libraries in Society, Information and Knowledge, Cultural Heritage, and Capacity Building.
- Share ideas on librarians' important role in advocating for the UN 2030 agenda, promoting access to information.
- Discuss with the group strategies on how libraries in Uzbekistan can collaborate with other libraries in Central Asia towards more dynamic and meaningful programs related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

## **The Four Strategic Directions:**

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. It is

the global voice of the library and information profession. This strategic plan sets out strategic directions and goals for 2016-2021. It aims to guide the governance and activities of the organization.

#### **Four Strategic Directions:**

- Libraries in Society
- **Information and Knowledge**
- **Cultural Heritage**
- Capacity Building

In the area of capacity- building, the association aims to *raise the voice of librarians and library* representatives at national, regional and global levels developing an advocacy agenda and strengthen the ability of librarians to advocate effectively for libraries as key players in political, economic and social change. Specifically, the following key initiatives are emphasized:

- Promoting libraries within the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Delivering the International Advocacy Program (IAP)
- Advancing our Leadership Program
- Delivering our Building Strong Library Associations program
- Strengthening IFLA by building regional and sectoral capacity and participation across our activities

#### Main IFLA Topics

- Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries & Archives
- **Cultural Heritage**
- **IFLA and the Information Society Libraries**
- eLending for Libraries
- **Development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda**

#### **A. Information and Knowledge**

Access to information is defined as the rights and capacity to use, create, and share information in ways that are meaningful to each individual, community, or organization (Development and Access to Information (DA2I) Report, 2017). With this idea, the project to enhance access to information as it contributes to sustainable development has become a major project with two main areas focused.

##### **A.1 Development and Access to Information or DA2I**

DA2I is a joint project between the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington Information School. It demonstrates how access to information and libraries contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This project was conceived as part of the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development, which calls on global institutions and associations to “ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.”

The primary objectives of the project are as follows:

- demonstrate how access to information contributes to development, and is embedded across the UN 2030 Agenda;
- demonstrate libraries' contributions to providing equitable access to information in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda;
- raise the visibility of libraries within the context of development agendas, particularly the UN 2030 Agenda; and
- serve as a tool to engage access-to-information campaigners, organizations, and libraries at the national level to generate conversations around the contributions of libraries to development.

DA2I framework works four interdependent dimensions that influence access to information and its ability to advance the SDGs:

- Information and communications access infrastructure: the connectivity (and material resources) that establishes the physical connection to information.
- Social context of use: the variety of local, cultural factors that shape the way users will engage with information.
- Capabilities: the body of functional knowledge, skills, and resources a population develops over time that shapes the nature of how information is used or not used.
- Legal and policy landscape: the policies and regulatory frameworks that promote or hinder connectivity, affordability, inclusiveness, and rights. (Example: universal access funds, copyrights, freedom of speech, privacy, and security.)

This framework provides useful insights for analyzing the interdependent variables that shape access. It can be applied to a group of people, to a nation, to the planet. We believe it is a useful tool for considering access to information in the context of the SDGs.

## **A.2 Library World Map**

As part of promoting access to information, the Library World Map has been developed to provide information about libraries around the world and their activities. This is useful for libraries because the platform shows what other libraries are doing. It is a way to benchmark what activities other libraries are doing or it can also be a way for networking. For example, libraries in Uzbekistan can connect with libraries in Central Asia or Russia or the US. The ideas other library practitioners can share is a great way for libraries to have meaningful projects. The libraries in Uzbekistan certainly have many stories to tell.

To show the potential of the global library field, the Library Map of the World features all types of libraries, including national, academic, public, community, school, and special libraries. The initial set of performance metrics include number of libraries, number of libraries providing internet access, number of staff and volunteers, number of registered users and visitors, and number of loans. As an advocacy tool, the Library Map of the World is also a platform providing access to [SDG stories](#) demonstrating how libraries in different countries contribute to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) and serve as partners in meeting local development needs.

IFLA Library Map of the World is being created in partnership with data and story contributors including national library associations, national libraries, library support organizations and other institutions, from around the world.

## B. Cultural Heritage

IFLA support the library and information services sector and work closely with a cultural heritage partners to safeguard cultural heritage in its diverse forms, including traditional, historical, indigenous and contemporary expression. Here are the projects of the organization and the purpose it can serve the libraries in Uzbekistan.

Key Projects	How to Use
<a href="#"><u>Resources gathered by the survey on preservation standards (2016)</u></a>	The compilation of standards and guidelines are needed for classification, care and preservation of cultural heritage materials. It has examples of National Library plans that can be used by the National Library of Uzbekistan and other libraries
<a href="#"><u>UNESCO PERSIST Guidelines for the selection of digital heritage for long-term preservation</u></a>	Reference for drafting policies for the selection of digital content for long term preservation
<a href="#"><u>Digital unification – libraries working together to unite documentary heritage</u></a>	This international legal framework is a strong basis for networks of libraries working on documentary heritage

Information in any technology driven format or as a form of knowledge preserved within the culture -- both serve a purpose in the Knowledge Society. The works on building the knowledge society are all aligned toward one global initiative which is the fulfillment of the 17 SDGs. Thus, emphasis on this advocacy is highlighted particularly in the goals of the United Nations.

### Librarians in the UN 2030 Agenda

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total of 169 Targets spanning economic, environmental and social development. They lay out a plan for all countries to engage actively in making our world better for its people, with no-one left behind.

Libraries are key institutions for achieving the Goals. Over the last few years, IFLA has been actively involved with the creation of the UN 2030 Agenda, advocating for the inclusion of access to information, safeguarding of **cultural heritage**, universal literacy, and **access to information** and communication technologies (ICT) in the framework.

In August 2015, after more than three years of negotiations and intense involvement from many stakeholders, including IFLA, the Member States of the United Nations agreed to a final version of the post-2015 Development Agenda – now known as the 2030 Agenda. This Agenda was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit.

In the UN 2030 Agenda, access to information has been recognized as a target under Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:

"Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements." (Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

Culture (target 11.4) and ICT (targets 5b, 9c, 17.8) have also been included in the SDGs. "Half of the world's population lacks access to information online. In our knowledge society, libraries provide access and opportunity for all." (Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development) And, universal literacy is recognized in the vision for the UN 2030 Agenda – envisioning a world with universal literacy (Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

IFLA's consistent position is that **access to information is essential in achieving the SDGs**, and that libraries are not only key partners for governments but are already contributing to progress towards the achievement of the 17 Goals. For this reason, IFLA **launched the International Advocacy Programme (IAP)** in 2016, a new capacity-building programme designed to promote and support the role libraries can play in the planning and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The **objectives** of the IAP are to:

- Raise the level of awareness on the SDGs of library workers at community, national and regional levels, and to promote the important role libraries can play in development by contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- Increase the participation of library associations and public library representatives in advocacy work at national and regional levels to secure sustainable public access to information through library services and programmes.

The International Advocacy Programme (IAP) is a capacity-building programme launched in 2016 designed to promote and support the role libraries can play in the planning and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on the following objectives:

- Raise the level of awareness on the SDGs of library workers at community, national and regional levels, and to promote the important role libraries can play in development by contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- Increase the participation of library associations and public library representatives in advocacy work at national and regional levels to secure sustainable public access to information through library services and programmes.

In the context of the IAP, 'advocacy' involves "*the actions individuals or organizations undertake to influence decision-making at the local, regional, state, national, and international levels that help create a desired policy or funding change in support of public libraries*" (Global Libraries Advocacy Guide (2011), p.2).

The programme is organized in the following main phases:

- 1) Awareness-raising and advocacy plan development
- 2) IFLA delivered regional workshops to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, and help participants develop a proposal to undertake advocacy activities around the SDGs at national and regional levels to get libraries included in the National Development Plans.

- 3) Follow-up actions by participating countries
- 4) Before the workshop, participants signed an agreement with IFLA to carry out awareness-raising activities and to meet with policy makers to ensure libraries are recognised as key partners in supporting the United Nations 2030 Agenda. IFLA monitors progress and supports participants to achieve their commitments, and helps communicate widely their activities and progress with the community.

A delegation of participants from all regional workshops will be invited to a global review meeting in the January 2018, to share their actions, experiences, evaluate the progress and impact of the programme to date, and to make joint plans for future cooperation around the UN 2030 Agenda. The meeting reviews commitments made by participants at the regional meetings and assesses overall progress of library advocacy in relation to the SDGs.

The programme aims to improve the level of engagement around the world through national and regional activities related to Libraries and the UN 2030 Agenda and to foster the inclusion of libraries in National Development Plans.

## **Conclusion**

United libraries with one global vision are the key to drive progress across the UN 2030 agenda. Libraries never lost their role in the society since time immemorial. Libraries have always been the gateway to information and the preservers of the knowledge.

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