

IFLA Annual Report 2024

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Message from the IFLA President

Gamba daru*

Welcome to the 2024 IFLA Annual Report, an all-too-brief summary of all the exciting and innovative work taking place across our Federation.

As underlined in our Strategy, IFLA is primarily a space and a structure that allows the library field to exchange, cooperate, and create together. Through our volunteer committees, events, and wider work, it delivers on the theme I chose as IFLA President – *Stronger Together*. This report, I believe, sets out what *Stronger Together* meant in practice in 2024.

As President and so also as a Governing Board member, I have the privilege of having an overview of all that is going on within IFLA and the wider field. I of course closely follow the work of our volunteers and Headquarters team.

A personal highlight was the IFLA Information Futures Summit that I was happy to welcome to my hometown, Brisbane, in September and October.

Additionally, it has been an honour to have been able to participate – either live, through videos or in other ways – in events in Argentina, China, Egypt, France, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand, the United States of America, and Venezuela.

In turn, alongside our Governing Board, I also have the responsibility of helping to ensure that we provide the best possible conditions for this work. I am proud of the work we have done to deliver on the six priorities we set out when taking up our mandate in August 2023, and on which we have reported regularly via the dashboards on my pages on the IFLA website.

I thank everyone whose time, energy and inspiration have enabled our work this year. I particularly acknowledge President-elect Leslie Weir and my colleagues on the Governing Board – I have valued your support, collegiality and commitment.

I extend special thanks to Secretary General Sharon Memis for her leadership, and the team at IFLA Headquarters – your hard work and support to our members and volunteers is applauded globally. And, to



all the officers and others who serve on our volunteer committees, our members, our funders, our partners – thank you for all you do for the global library field.

Stronger together!

Vicki McDonald IFLA President 2023-2025

* "Gamba daru" means "Good day" in the language of the Barunnggam people from the Darling Downs region of Dalby and Bunya Mountains – the community where I grew up.

Stronger Together

Welcome to the IFLA Annual Report 2024!

With IFLA's centenary approaching, 2024 was a year of important progress towards ensuring a strong and sustainable future for our Federation, while also delivering key outputs and opportunities for our field today. At the heart of this is the logic that we are stronger together – the theme chosen by our President Vicki McDonald for her 2023-2025 term.

As an international federation, IFLA is about building global connections and partnerships with our members, our volunteers, international and intergovernmental organisations, funders, and other stakeholders.

This introduction to our Annual Report for 2024 therefore draws together key highlights of our work over the year, and how – through becoming stronger together – we are maximising our positive impact today and tomorrow.

Making a difference now

IFLA benefits from the wealth of energy and insight our dynamic and generous volunteer committees brings from all library types, collections, professional backgrounds, nations, cultures, and communities served, as well as our dedicated international headquarters team.

IFLA's key contribution to enabling the work and development of libraries around the world comes from providing the spaces, structures and support needed to focus these efforts, and realise the potential of international librarianship.

In 2024, there were many examples of how this happens.

As highlighted later in this report, a key indicator of the vitality of our community is the record number of standards and guidelines published – six in total. These contribute to IFLA's rich collection of such texts which have a direct impact in promoting innovation and strengthening services.



While there was no World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in 2024, our volunteer community set up a rich calendar of events – online and in person. A highlight was IFLA's Information Futures Summit held in Brisbane, Australia in October which attracted 765 participants from 62 countries – the largest non-WLIC event IFLA has ever hosted.

Each meeting is a chance to address common challenges and ensure that innovations and insights are shared across the field. That so many members of our community took the opportunity to come together in different ways demonstrates the importance IFLA's community attaches to international collaboration and learning.

Communications and transparency are a key priority for the President and Governing Board, and 2024 saw more frequent, transparent, and personalised communications with members and volunteers to ensure they were kept up to date on the work of our federation and Governing Board discussions. The high level of engagement in townhalls, and consultations around our Strategy, Congress Review, and Code of Conduct for Volunteers are another indicator of the strong interest of Members and volunteers in helping to shape IFLA's future.

Another unique role that IFLA can play in supporting the field is through our engagement with partners at the international level, acting as the global voice of libraries. There are many examples in this report. In this work, IFLA focuses on those spaces and connections where we can build partnerships that benefit IFLA, our Members, the global library field, and the communities they serve. An important step towards making IFLA an attractive partner was achieved when we formally became a charity (ANBI) under Dutch law in July, thanks to the strong support of our Members given through a formal vote at the General Assembly.

Making an even bigger difference in the future

Partnerships are at the heart of our goal of building a stronger future for IFLA and the global library field as a whole. Work to develop and nurture partnerships, both within and outside of the field can enhance our ability to achieve more than we could alone. 'Stronger together' is therefore central to our plans for IFLA's long-term resilience and sustainability.

2024 was a future-focused year. Our Information Futures Summit aimed to provide a space not just to reflect on what the future of knowledge and information might hold, but also to set out a positive idea of the tomorrow we want. These ideas were crystallised in our Brisbane Declaration.

Underpinning the discussions was our Trend Report 2024 – the first fully updated version since the original was published in 2013. Thanks to the hard work of the author team, we have a set of seven trends which we can use to think about the future. The report also, for the first time, shares scenarios – ideas of potential futures available to libraries and librarians to test the readiness of our plans and assumptions.

The other major launch at the Summit was our new Strategy, which will take IFLA through our centenary, to 2029. This follows a logic of simplification, adaptability, and stronger connection between our work and



the world we want to see. It is the result of extensive consultation – six surveys, five townhall meetings and extensive discussion – and gives our Federation a new and clearer vision and objectives, as well as the possibility to present what we are about on a single page. Our ambition is that it will guide us towards ever greater effectiveness and mobilisation in the years of its operation.

Finally, investment in emerging leaders represents one of the clearest ways of building a brighter future for all. The Information Futures Summit was a tremendous opportunity to build profile and experience, with emerging leaders playing a key role in summarising the day's discussions. These leaders also developed the Trend Report Skills Agenda, exploring the different skills necessary to be ready for an uncertain future.

Beyond this, we commissioned valuable work to understand how leadership programmes operate around the world, providing a basis for looking further at IFLA's own activities in this area in 2025.

IFLA is grateful to all those who make our work possible, first of all our members and volunteers, and in particular our Governing Board. We thank also our partners, in particular the Gates Foundation, Arcadia (whose support enables the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme), the European Commission (for the Media Literacy Case for Educators project), and the Gulbenkian Foundation (for the Media and Information Literacy for Societal Resilience project), as well as all those who have donated to support our work.

Sharon Memis
IFLA Secretary General



IFLA at work – Our 2024–2029 Strategy

Impact Area 01—Libraries are connected and energised through vibrant, global professional communities

- Enabling dynamic and highperforming volunteer groups, acting as spaces for exchange, and incubators for new ideas
- Maintaining and expanding an engaged membership motivated to contribute their experience and energy to the field
- Developing active and engaged wider communities of practice, allowing all members of our field to find their place in our work
- Creating and upholding timely, worldclass standards and guidelines that facilitate great services, continuous evolution and international working
- Providing and maintaining spaces where members and volunteers can connect effectively and to mutual benefit

Impact Area 02—Libraries are recognised, represented and valued as partners

- Building a voice, profile, and influence in relevant international policy spaces where IFLA is uniquely able to contribute and convene
- Identifying and developing partnership strategies with others, in line with our sustainability strategy and as a means of achieving shared goals
- Providing thought-leadership within the field on policy issues and promoting library values
- Ensuring that advocacy resources and skills are shared throughout the field, to realise the impact of our global work

Impact Area 03—Libraries are enabled to deliver meaningful change at all levels

- Developing regional structures
 which can both articulate global
 priorities at their level and build high impact work programmes around
 specific needs within the context of
 IFLA's Strategy
- Developing an offer of relevant training which adds value to existing provision and responds to identified areas of need, as well as giving emerging leaders opportunities to develop skills and profile
- Supporting the development of library associations

Enabler—Future proofing IFLA

- Ensuring our governance is effective, transparent and fit-for-purpose, and gives all parts of our community a voice
- Ensuring we are effective, consistent, and innovative in delivering projects and initiatives, in particular in partnerships
- Continuing to invest in "our people", the IFLA Headquarters team, so they can respond to community needs and build for the future
- Developing and implementing a successful sustainability strategy that allows us to diversify funding and deliver on our goals



IFLA in 2024: Facts and Figures

IFLA Membership

- 1598 Members*
- 151 Countries
- 96% of members rated their membership as valuable, with particularly high appreciation in the LAC and Sub-Saharan Africa regions (100%)
- Nearly 4 in 5 members (78%) agreed that their IFLA membership positively impacted their personal or professional growth

IFLA Information Futures Summit

- Largest non-WLIC event ever hosted
- 765 delegates
- 60 speakers, keynotes, and panellists
- 79 sessions and Ignite talks
- Participants from 62 countries
- 31 grants

Virtual events

- Number of Units who hosted virtual events – 19 (including joint events)
- Number of virtual events 44
- Number of registrants 8904
- Number of live attendees 5852
- Over half of members (53%) participated in professional development or other events organised by Professional Sections

Impact Training

- 1,184 library workers benefitted from IFLA's training programme on "Measurement, evaluation, and demonstrating impact of library services"
 - The programme reached beneficiaries in 63 countries
 - Nine in ten programme
 participants (91%) said that as the
 result of the training they feel
 better prepared to evaluate and
 demonstrate impact of libraries

Library Map of the World

- 179 countries and territories engaged in the Library Map of the World (LMW) project
- 147 countries with published data
- 31 full country profiles and 58 SDG stories
- Over half of IFLA members (53%) used the LMW as a resource

IFLA Journal

- 76 articles
- Authors from 52 countries
- Journal's impact factor 1.4

Impact Area 1—Libraries are connected and energised through vibrant, global professional communities

Our work under this Impact Area focuses on IFLA's role as a space and structure where professionals can connect across borders. Through our membership and volunteer structure, we enable exchange and learning, creativity and innovation. In turn, this contributes to a stronger field, better able to develop and share new ideas, and so effectively meet the needs of communities in an evolving external environment. Impact Area 1 includes our work to support a thriving set of volunteer structures and communities of practice, as well as an engaged membership. It covers our work to develop influential and relevant standards and guidelines, and to provide spaces for effective connection.

"IFLA's Professional Units grow stronger because of the dedication, knowledge, and generosity of our global volunteers. Their passion for new ideas, working together, and sharing knowledge has shaped our

^{*}Includes national and international associations, institutions, organisations, and individuals.



work in 2024; improving library practice, supporting inclusive and sustainable services, and meeting the changing needs of communities everywhere. As Chair of the Professional Council, I am inspired by their achievements and the connections they build across countries and cultures. Their work shows the power of working together for a shared goal. The Professional Council is proud to support and highlight their impact. To every volunteer: you are the heart of IFLA. Your work strengthens libraries, helps communities, and builds a better future for our profession. Thank you for making a difference."

- Te Paea Paringatai, IFLA Professional Council Chair

Highlights

2024 was a particularly strong year for professional outputs, with a record six standards and guidelines, covering services to displaced persons and persons with disabilities, as well as an update to the IFLA Library Reference Model, manuals for Universal MARC (machine-readable cataloguing) format (UNIMARC) Authorities Format and Bibliographic Format, and guidance on Object-orientated definition and mapping from the IFLA Library Reference Model. In addition, we released the highly topical open access book *New Horizons on Artificial Intelligence in Libraries* through our IFLA Publications series. Together, this work – available to support both practical operations and forward planning – contribute to a more connected, responsive field.

With no World Library and Information Congress, it was a year for experimenting with new formats of meetings. We saw great collaborations between our Sections, Divisions and other groups to organise ambitious conferences and events around the world, providing new ways for members of our field to connect.

A particular highlight was our IFLA Information Futures Summit. This mixed inspiring keynote speakers from inside and outside the library field with open discussion sessions, offering a great experience for participants. See more about the Information Futures Summit in our feature section.

Both the Summit, and the work of our volunteer groups offered valuable input for our WLIC Review process. Led by President-elect Leslie Weir, the review ran over the year and allowed for a re-evaluation of how to evolve this key moment in the international library calendar. We are looking forward to implementing the findings in congresses from 2026 onwards.

Finally, we started working with the concept of communities of practice, offering a more informal space for people with shared interests or experiences to exchange, without the pressure of developing outputs. We are building these with the participants in our different regional workshops, and set up the Library Advocacy Community of Practice towards the end of the year. IFLA aims to develop more communities of practice in 2025.

Information Futures Summit (IIFS)

Key facts

- Largest non-WLIC event IFLA has ever hosted
- 765 delegates
- 60 speakers, keynotes & panellists
- 33 sessions

- 46 Ignite talks
- Participants from 62 countries
- 10 emerging leader grants
- 21 participation grants
- 42 volunteers



18 exhibitors

While 2024 was a year without a traditional World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), IFLA organised its Information Futures Summit in the hometown of our President, Vicki McDonald – Brisbane, Australia.

The Summit was a new type of event for IFLA, built around the core questions of what the future of information and knowledge holds, and what we can do about it. The programme brought together a rich range of keynote speakers from inside and outside of the library field, from Australia and globally, combined with open discussion sessions to explore the ideas in greater depth.

The Summit provided a superb backdrop for the launch of our new Trend Report and Strategy, as well as the Brisbane Declaration. This consolidated key messages from the Summit, and drew together comments shared by participants to define priorities for the future of knowledge and information.

We are grateful to all those who attended the Summit and to all others who made it possible, and in particular to the Australian Advisory Committee. With delegates from over 62 countries, participants from Australia and other parts of the world alike were inspired by the Summit, the first major IFLA event in Oceania in decades. The Summit also provided valuable insights for the WLIC Review that will inform the design of future meetings, including our congresses.

"A key highlight of my IFLA membership in 2024 was participating in the IFLA Information Futures Summit in Brisbane. The event successfully showcased the role of technology and AI in shaping the future of libraries. What made this event especially impactful was the opportunity to engage in deep discussions around AI integration, digital transformation, and ethical innovation, all of which are central to the evolving role of libraries worldwide."

- Abdulla Majed Al Ali, National Library and Archives, United Arab Emirates

"One of the key highlights of my IFLA membership in 2024 was attending the IFLA Information Futures Summit in Brisbane, Australia. The experience was both enriching and inspiring, offering a platform to connect with global library leaders and exchange ideas on innovation, inclusivity, and digital transformation. An important moment for me was engaging in sessions focused on public libraries' role in advancing literacy and lifelong learning—areas that align strongly with mission of our organisation. The insights gained are already shaping our approach to international collaboration and service delivery back in Ghana."

— A representative of an IFLA institutional member

Publishing

IFLA Standards

Since they were introduced in 2013, the global library and information science field has come to rely on IFLA Standards as an international measure of excellence. Each IFLA Standard reflects consensus on principles, guidelines and best practice for a particular library or information-related activity or service. Standards are developed by IFLA's Professional Units, Special Programmes and Review Groups, sometimes in collaboration with other international organisations such as UNESCO.



2024 saw the release of six new or fully updated IFLA Standards:

IFLA Guidelines for libraries supporting displaced persons: Refugees | Migrants | Immigrants | Asylum seekers

Written and edited by Despina Gerasimidou

Co-authors and co-editors: Nancy Bolt, Maela Rakočević Uvodić, Ann Okerson With contributions and support from the working group on Libraries Supporting Displaced Persons of the IFLA Equitable and Accessible Library Services Section

IFLA Guidelines for making libraries accessible for people with disabilities

Edited by Julie Ann Winkelstein and Nancy Bolt

Co-authors: Nancy Bolt, Heidi Carlsson Asplund, Misako Nomura, Maela Rakočević Uvodić With contributions and support from the Working Group on Accessibility of the IFLA Equitable and Accessible Library Services Section

IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information (2024 Update) Edited by Pat Riva, Patrick Le Bœuf, and Maja Žume

LRMoo: object-oriented definition and mapping from the IFLA Library Reference Model

Prepared by the LRMoo (Library Reference Model [object oriented]) Working Group of the IFLA Bibliographic Conceptual Models Review Group, in collaboration with the International Committee for Documentation's Comité International pour la Documentation Conceptual Reference Model (ICOM CIDOC CRM) Special Interest Group

UNIMARC Authorities Format Manual 1.1.0

Edited by Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC)

UNIMARC Bibliographic Format Manual 1.1.0

Edited by Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC)

IFLA Publications Series

Along with our partner, De Gruyter, one new title was published in open access in 2024 on a rapidly developing topic of great concern: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and libraries.

New Horizons in Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

Edited by: Edmund Balnaves, Leda Bultrini, Andrew Cox and Raymond Uzwyshyn

This new publication brings together several of IFLA's working projects and observations on the ethics and practice of AI in the library field. It is a book that explores the implications for libraries of engaging with AI, and the current and potential applications of AI in libraries. The publication highlights both technology and ethics of AI in libraries, the governance and ethical considerations for engaging in AI and showcases library IT projects, collaborations, and future uses of AI tools and techniques that can enhance the services, progress and competitive advantage of libraries.

IFLA Journal

Underscoring the diversity of library practices worldwide continues to be the aim of articles published in the IFLA Journal. Authors from over 52 countries were featured in 2024 and the topics ranged from accessibility, community networks, library sustainability, and climate change to cultural exchange.



Volume 1 for the year featured articles derived from papers presented at the BOBCATSSS* conference for early career researchers. The role of the IFLA Journal to support and publish researchers and practitioners at all levels and from all regions within a peer-review framework cannot be underestimated.

As IFLA itself moves towards its centenary, the fourth volume of the year dealt with library history and explored preserving the record of national organisations and libraries, practices for institutional memory and international collaboration. With rapid social and technological change, it is important to ensure the history of libraries is kept alive and IFLA can contribute a unique global perspective.

New members of the editorial committee were appointed in 2024 and were kept busy reviewing over 300 manuscripts of which 76 were finally accepted for publication, an acceptance rate of 25.8%. The Journal's impact factor in 2024 was 1.4 with a five-year impact factor of 1.5, both significant increases over previous years. A challenge for many peer-reviewed journals is the ability to involve experienced academics and practitioners in the field as reviewers of articles and IFLA is grateful to the many who gave their time and knowledge to this process.

The most downloaded article in the IFLA Journal for 2024 was: [The] Librarian's role in the preservation and dissemination of indigenous knowledge by Joseline Chigwada and Patrick Ngulube.

*BOBCATSSS is named after a 1993 symposium held in Budapest, Oslo, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Tampere, Stuttgart, Szombathely and Sheffield. It's been held every year since.

"I share the IFLA Journal every month with our staff; it's especially heartening to see contributions from library staff we serve. I also encourage staff to use IFLA public resources and trainings."

—An IFLA individual affiliate

IFLA Repository

Utilising Dublin Core metadata standards, the IFLA Repository is a rich and continuously expanding platform that enables users to explore IFLA Standards, key publications and much more—all in open access. With over 3800 curated submissions, it reflects the breadth of IFLA's impactful work, past and present.

Over 700 items were added to the repository in 2024, with most material coming from IFLA's Professional Units and IFLA Headquarters. Additional material was sourced from IFLA's archives and added to a new collection, as we approach our centenary, dedicated to IFLA History. The range of deposited items is broad and includes unit reports, Standards, translations, training materials, archival documents, Congress papers, presentations and posters.

In 2025, we will integrate the content of the existing IFLA Library—which contains pre-2020 WLIC papers, posters and other materials—into the IFLA Repository. Having a single platform for our core outputs, integrated with our main website, will improve long-term access and discoverability.

IFLA Newsletter

IFLA's monthly newsletter provides a particularly rich opportunity to highlight the diversity of contributions that its professional committees provide. Professional committee outputs are many and varied, and the newsletter reflects this broad range of activities. 2024 saw thematic releases on climate, the Internet we want (a tie-in with the new Internet Manifesto), indigenous matters, cultural heritage, library work life, and



sustainable urbanisation. These topics demonstrate the full range of our committees' work on issues that matter for communities and decision-makers alike.

IFLA Open Access Vocabularies

The spread of Open Access (OA) arguably represents one of the most far-reaching successes of the library and research fields over the last quarter century. IFLA's Open Science and Scholarship Advisory Committee produced the IFLA Open Access Vocabularies in order to develop a shared understanding of the key terminology used in OA across regions and languages, essential for awareness raising within the profession and communication with stakeholders. The publication was downloaded thousands of times in the first few months.

Membership

In 2024, IFLA continued to expand its global reach, welcoming members from four new countries – Togo, Seychelles, Saint Lucia, and Côte d'Ivoire – bringing the total number of represented countries to 151, up from 147 in 2023.

Overall membership and affiliate numbers saw a slight decline this year (7%), a trend observed in previous years when no WLIC was held. However, growth in specific regions helped offset this decline. The Asia Oceania (AO) region saw a modest increase in membership (4%), driven in part by the presence of IFLA Information Futures Summit in Brisbane, Australia. Meanwhile, representation among National Associations and Institutions remained relatively stable across all six regions, with growth in AO (3%), LAC (2%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (4%).

To foster a sense of community, IFLA introduced New Member Orientation Sessions. Held online, these meetups generated enthusiasm among new members, providing them with a way to connect, learn about IFLA's initiatives and actively participate in the network.

A series of strategic membership campaigns throughout the year helped strengthen engagement by reaching out to diverse groups including inactive members who rejoined after a number of years' absence; applying our year-end discount for new members; a number of new members from the Top 500 Universities list, and national libraries. Six national libraries rejoined: Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bangladesh, Haiti, Botswana and Belize.

"IFLA is great! To be able to assist libraries on the international level is very fulfilling for a librarian, to know your small bit of work in one country might help the entire world of libraries is amazing."

— A representative of an IFLA association member

"Everyone wishes IFLA success and sustainability because it is our only channel and hope in this world to make our many voices heard, to express our problems, and to participate in creating something that may benefit others and ourselves. Thank you, IFLA, for opening up wide professional and personal opportunities for us."

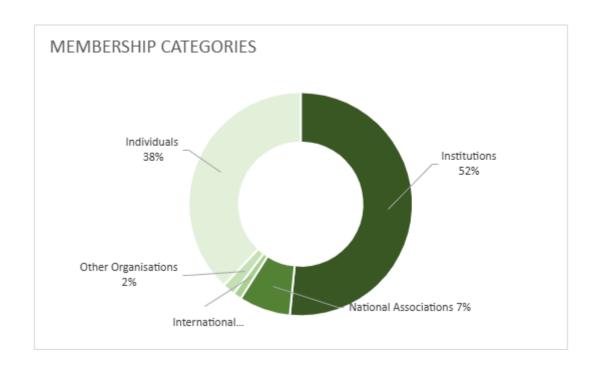
- Hasna Askhita, an IFLA individual affiliate

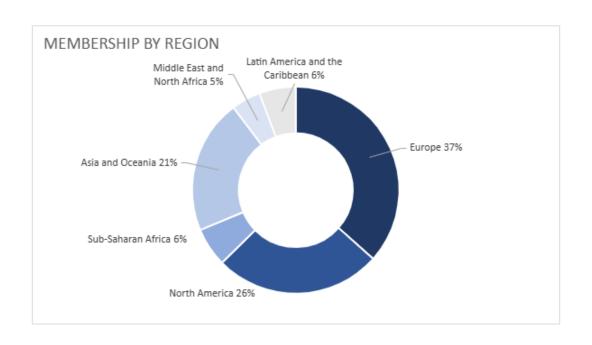


Membership data

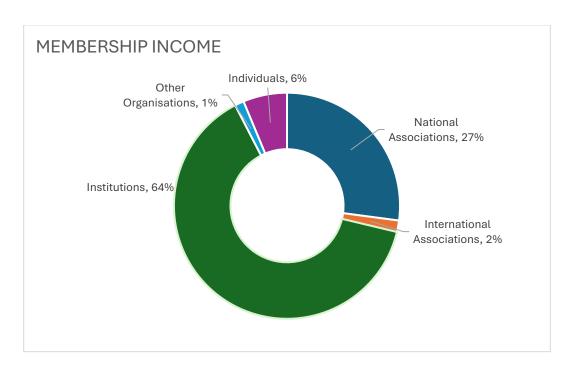
Number of Members per Category 2023 > 2024	Asia & Oceania		Europe		Latin America & Caribbean		MENA		North America		Sub-Saharan Africa		Total		%
Category	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024- 2023
National Associations	24	24	58	58	11	12	4	6	11	11	11	10	119	121	-2%
International Associations	1	1	8	8	1	1	2	1	5	8	3	3	20	22	-9%
Institutions	160	154	397	405	51	49	43	53	108	115	65	65	824	841	-2%
Individuals	141	133	111	132	27	31	22	29	290	368	15	19	606	712	-15%
Other Organisations	10	11	10	12	1	1	2	0	3	4	3	1	29	29	0%
Grand Total	336	323	584	615	91	94	73	89	417	506	97	98	1598	1725	-7%
2023 > 2024%		4%		-5%		-3%		-18%		-18%		-1%		-7%	
Total Organisations	195	190	473	483	64	63	51	60	127	138	82	79	992	1013	-2%
2023 > 2024%		3%		-2%		2%		-15%		-8%		4%		-2%	
Total Individuals	141	133	111	132	27	31	22	29	290	368	15	19	606	712	-15%
2023 > 2024%		6%		-16%		-13%		-24%		-21%		-21%		-15%	











Our Membership on the map





Impact Area 2—Libraries are recognised, represented and valued as partners

Our work under this Impact Area focuses on the connections we make with the wider world. This includes our communications and advocacy, building support for libraries as essential infrastructures within communities, as well as helping libraries to see their place in wider agendas. It also covers our work to establish and develop strong partnerships with institutions and organisations that share our goals. Through this, we aim both to ensure that libraries everywhere have the resources and recognition necessary to fulfil their missions, as well as to build connections that help them do more than they could do on their own.

"Libraries are embedded in their communities and cannot be isolated from the forces that shape them. IFLA works to ensure libraries, in turn, can influence these forces for the better, and realise the potential of partnerships with organisations and institutions that share our goals. Over 2024, and in line with Vicki McDonald's theme of Stronger Together, we have focused and strengthened our advocacy and outreach work, raising the profile of libraries internationally and making connections that help libraries better serve their communities."

- Leslie Weir, IFLA President-elect

Highlights

In 2024, IFLA continued to develop its engagement in international spaces on behalf of the library field, strengthening its focus on processes which can best inspire stronger support for libraries at all levels. Our engagement with UNESCO continued to grow, with new connections made around greening communities and learning cities, while we also were very active around preparations for the 20th anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society and Internet Governance Forum, and work on climate empowerment linked to COP29.

Released during the Information Futures Summit in Brisbane, where it served as a touchstone for numerous sessions, the IFLA Trend Report 2024 is the first major revision of the Report since the original was launched in 2013. It is a publication designed to provide the library field with a vital tool for planning for the future and will produce active, global engagement for years to come.

Strong engagement at the UN High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals allowed us to open discussions around a potential Group of Friends of Libraries, as well as build new connections with Ambassadors and senior officials. We also continued our engagement with the Culture2030Goal campaign, preparing a review of the place of culture in Voluntary National Reviews, and contributing to advocacy for the recognition of knowledge and culture in the Pact for the Future.

Our work around partnerships is focused on enabling real-world change for libraries. We have, for example, been happy to launch work with UNESCO to support the development of Armenia's public library sector, drawing on expertise from across IFLA.

2024 also saw a new edition of our Development and Access to Information Report, updating on progress towards informed societies as a driver of sustainable development, as well as our fully updated Trend Report. These – together with tools such as our Library Map of the World and key statements such as our updated Internet Manifesto and statement on Universal Access to Healthcare as a Human Right – are not



only tools to help libraries reflect further on their role in a changing world, but also conversation-starters with potential partners and allies.

Finally, we continued to deliver on externally funded projects which align with our goals, in particular through Knowledge Rights 21, funded by Arcadia, which enables us to invest in advocacy for better copyright law and policy for libraries in Europe. We are also grateful to the European Commission, whose support makes work on media and information literacy possible.

"The Trend Report 2024 has been highly valuable for linking local developments to global trends."

— An IFLA individual affiliate

Impact Area 3—Libraries are enabled to deliver meaningful change at all levels

Our work under this Impact Area is about building the structures and capacities at all levels of the library field to support great services to communities that drive positive change in people's lives. It is based on the understanding that we need strong ecosystems of institutions and organisations to enable learning, resilience and innovation, given that we can achieve more through cooperation than we can alone. It includes work to strengthen our regional structures, support impactful library associations, provide relevant training and learning, and support individuals to grow and network. In turn, our investment here aims to ensure that libraries are able to deliver responses at scale to the challenges faced by our communities and societies, today and into the future.

"As President of the Regional Council, I have the responsibility and satisfaction of witnessing the significant progress made by IFLA's regional structures during this time and the commitment of the members of the Council and the Divisions. Their efforts are essential to develop the potential of a Federation that meets the needs of its members and those of the communities it serves. In an era marked by rapid technological changes —with both positive and negative impacts—undoubtedly transforming our societies, our field faces important challenges. We recognise the increasing demand for the services and skills we can offer to the community, and we also know that we can benefit enormously from an exchange based on a genuine effort to listen to our colleagues wherever they are and to address their demands and their realities. Our regional structures are key to achieving these goals."

- Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa, IFLA Regional Council Chair

Highlights

2024 was the first year of operation of our Regional Offices under new agreements that have emphasised the importance of developing an offer of support and services that respond to regional needs. Working together with our Regional Division Committees, we have seen a strong programme of events, training opportunities and advocacy at the regional level, as well as work highlighting both similarities and differences between library fields in different parts of the world. This included the formal opening of our Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Doha at the end of the year.

We continued our series of regional workshops focused on strong and sustainable library fields with meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile. With a programme focused on factors of



sustainability, this contributes to our work to build the skills and knowledge necessary to be resilient and effective.

2024 saw work to build understanding of how we can better support associations and library fields. This complements the ongoing work, notably, of our Management of Library Associations Section in supporting exchange around how to maximise the effectiveness associations.

We continued to develop the potential of our events as opportunities for learning, as well as investing in emerging leaders. Highlights of this included the publication of the 2024 Trend Report, as well as preparation of the Skills Agenda for the 2024 Trend Report, both of which were prepared by emerging leaders in the field.

Finally, we carried out work to explore the nature of library leadership programmes, as well as delivering training on grant-writing and effective online and blended learning. This comes alongside ongoing work by our impact trainers to build evaluation skills, and the activities of our Regional Offices and Preservation and Conservation Centres to build capacity in their regions.

"Working with colleagues from different countries on LAC's Regional Division Action Plan, I feel we capture a broader view of the reality of our libraries and the profession. Meeting with colleagues from different cultures but with the same concerns about the future and the current situation of the library profession is inspiring."

- Rosa Fermina Garcia Cossio, Fundación Universitaria del Área Andina, Colombia

Enabler—Futureproofing IFLA

Our work in this area is focused on making sure that IFLA as an organisation is able to advance work in our three Impact Areas. It is essential that IFLA is efficient, effective, innovative and transparent to be able to play an effective and sustainable role in the wider global library field. Work here includes the successful delivery of projects, effective governance, investing in IFLA's own team, and building a strategy for the long term.

"IFLA's financial sustainability is a core part of any strategy to ensure our sustainability as a Federation in general, and as Treasurer I am happy that the Governing Board as a whole has placed such an emphasis on this. 2024 saw some important progress towards this goal, not least our achievement of charity status in July. I am looking forward to building on this, as well as participating in the governance health check launching this year. I am grateful for the work Jaap Naber carried out as Treasurer, and am honoured to have been asked to carry this forward to the end of this Board's term."

— Stuart Hamilton, Acting IFLA Treasurer

Through this work, we must ensure we have the resources, credibility and ability to realise our potential to enable positive change through libraries.

A key focus in the priorities set out by IFLA President Vicki McDonald in her first speech as President was the need to optimise the work of the Governing Board and provide more effective opportunities for engagement with members and volunteers. 2024 saw a major upgrade in this work, with the launch of open townhall sessions with the President and Secretary General (three sets of three, to suit participants in



different time zones), as well as monthly messages on IFLA's work and priorities. Agendas for Governing Board meetings are shared in advance of meetings, and detailed information about discussions is then issued soon afterwards.

There is also a busy calendar of participation in events and meetings, as well as intensified engagement with members, all of which offer a great opportunity to listen and understand what members and volunteers need. This input has been crucial for the success of key strategic initiatives, notably the finalisation of our new Strategy, our WLIC review, and the preparation of a Code of Conduct for IFLA volunteers.

Elsewhere, we have made important investments of time and effort in our online platforms. We have adopted tools that help us to professionalise webinars. We are upgrading our repository and progress is on track to merge our pre-existing IFLA Library into this to offer a single space for knowledge-sharing globally.

We continued to deliver on project work, as highlighted under Impact Area 2, and received the very positive news of the renewal of the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme by the Arcadia Fund.

Finally, IFLA's financial sustainability has been a core focus of the Governing Board. In addition to work to deliver on grant-funded projects and build understanding about future opportunities and how to seize them, the Board has also made a priority of realising the potential of the Legacy Grant given by the Gates Foundation to leave the library stronger, and held an externally-led workshop on partnerships and sustainability.

"We have appreciated the opportunity to align our own strategy to the IFLA Strategy 2024-2029. The insights gathered from the Trend Report 2024 were quite valuable."

- A representative of an IFLA institutional member

"I've used the IFLA Strategy and Trend Reports in multiple presentations to our library team, university leadership, and library supporters. Very useful!"

— A representative of an IFLA institutional member

IFLA working in partnership

Libraries can achieve a huge amount on their own, but they can do even more when working with others. The same applies for IFLA, where we have made developing partnerships a key goal for our work. 2024 was key both in delivering on the potential of partnerships, and developing new connections. This section summarises a few of these connections and the change they make possible.

Our work with Stichting IFLA Global Libraries Foundation, which administers the funding awarded by the **Gates Foundation** to support IFLA's work, has made it possible to carry out key research to inform our planning for capacity-building, hold a regional workshop, engage in advocacy around the UN, deliver on the Trend Report, and bring emerging leaders to the Information Futures Summit.

Our partnership with the **Arcadia Fund** has made the Knowledge Rights 21 programme possible, with project partners LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche – Association of European Research Libraries) and SPARC Europe. This work has enabled a reinforcement of advocacy for libraries around copyright issues in the European Union, the hiring of national coordinators in or working with library



associations to build lasting capacity, and the production of research that fills key evidence gaps and strengthens arguments for reform. Late in the year, we had the welcome news that Knowledge Rights 21 funding is being extended for a further five years with a grant of €5.5 million.

We have engaged with the **European Union**, alongside Tactical Tech and European SchoolsNet, in work around media literacy, developing and disseminating tools to help librarians become ever more effective in building essential skills in their communities. IFLA's ability to contact and mobilise libraries has been essential in this work.

Similarly, we are part of a successful bid for work on the interaction between intellectual property management and open science in research, looking to find ways of reconciling potentially contrasting logics and build interdisciplinary teams within institutions.

We are also proud to be working with the **Gulbenkian Foundation** on work on media and information literacy for societal resilience, again alongside Tactical Tech. This is a further opportunity to build on IFLA's ability to connect libraries with funders and other actors who share the same goals in order to develop tools, programming and services that help communities.

Outside of funded partnerships, we are active members of other coalitions, including the Culture 2030 Goal campaign, the Climate Heritage Network and much more.

"Overall I am very pleased with the exhibition - if at first it seemed that it is focusing too heavily on the negatives, then after a while, I understood how a cautionary tale is perhaps just what is needed to think about the good and the not so good of AI. [...] it was a very interesting topic that had a lot of information to ponder about."

— Estonian Librarians Association, participant in the Media and Information Literacy for Societal Resilience project in which IFLA is a partner

About IFLA

IFLA – the global voice of the library and information profession

IFLA puts libraries on the global stage and helps them develop. We are the global voice and represent the brightest minds of the library and information profession, with an **active network of over 1500 Members – leading institutions and players in the library field – in over 150 countries** around the world and well-established relations with the United Nations and other international organisations. Together with our Members we work to set the professional agenda and develop standards for library services, to improve access to information and cultural heritage resources, and to advocate for the place of libraries at the heart of local and global policies.

IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit, public benefit organisation. We aim to:

- 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.



Our Vision

Sustainable futures for all through knowledge and information.

Core Values

In pursuing our Vision, IFLA seeks to demonstrate the following core values:

- the endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- 2. the belief that people, communities and organizations need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being;
- 3. the conviction that delivery of high-quality library and information services help guarantee that access;
- 4. the commitment to promote and value diversity and inclusion, notably as regards age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender-identity, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and actively pursue relevant policies and practices.

Our team

Governing Board 2023-2025

Vicki McDonald, Australia (President)
Leslie Weir, Canada (President-elect)
Jaap Naber, Netherlands (Treasurer, until October 2024)

Stuart Hamilton, Ireland (Member at Large, Acting Treasurer from November 2024)

Dilara Begum Bangladesh (Member at Large)

Kirsten Boelt, Denmark (Member at Large)

Loida Garcia-Febo, United States of America (Chair, MLAS)

Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, South Africa (Member at Large)

Te Paea Paringatai, Aotearoa [New Zealand] (Chair, Professional Council)

Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa, Argentina (Chair, Regional Council) Silvia Stasselová, Slovakia (Member at Large) Secretary: Sharon Memis,

IFLA Secretary General



IFLA Headquarters Staff 2024

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

Sharon Memis

Secretary General

Farah Almazouni

Communications Officer

Cristina Baró Miró

Communications Officer

Maria de Brasdefer

Policy and Advocacy Officer

Iva Breulj

Programme Management

Assistant

Robin Chan

Membership Data and Outreach

Assistant

Sten de Hollander

Interim Finance Director

Esther Doria

Executive Assistant to Secretary General and Governance Officer

Anne Korhonen

Finance and Operations

Assistant

Helen Mandl

Deputy Secretary General

Marie-Emmanuelle Marande

Conference Manager

(until June)

Claire McGuire

Policy and Advocacy Manager

Kristīne Pabērza Ramiresa

Impact and Insight Manager

Lidia Putziger

Operations Manager

Renu Sardjoe Mishre

Finance Director

Louis Takács

Communications Manager

Matt Voigts

Policy and Research Officer

(until February)

Vesna Vuksan

Community Building Manager

Stephen Wyber

External Affairs Director

Alain Zayan

Conference and Events Manager

(from August)

In addition to our staff, consultants provide specific project support including with our Members and Volunteers.

Professional structure

IFLA's Professional Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) represent global expertise across sectors, services and lead in the emerging trends of the library and information field. Whether it be policy, guidelines, best practices or other forms of professional development, IFLA's Professional Units are the field's go-to global library and information resource and community of practice.

Professional Council Chair Te Paea Paringatai, Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Vice-Chair & Division A Chair Marian Morgan Bindon, Australia

Division B Chair – Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, United States of America

Division C Chair – Karin Byström, Sweden

Division D Chair – Ann Okerson, United States of America
Division E Chair – Russell S. Lynch, United States of America

Division F Chair – Samira Zahra, Thailand
Division G Chair – Edmund Balnaves, Australia

Division H Chair – Athena Salaba, United States of America



Regional structure

IFLA has six Regional Division Committees, which work to strengthen the voice of regions within IFLA, and the reach of IFLA within regions: Asia-Oceania, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Regional Council

Chair: Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa,

Argentina

Asia-Oceania Regional Division

Chair: Lin Li Soh, Singapore

Europe Regional Division

Chair: Ertugrul Çimen, Türkiye

• Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Division

Chair: Jeannette Lebrón Ramos, Puerto

Rico

 Middle East and North Africa Regional Division

Chair: Saif AlJabri, Oman

North America Regional Division

Chair: Diane Koen, Canada

Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division

Chair: Ayanda Lebele, Botswana

IFLA's Advisory Committees

IFLA's Advisory Committees support 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, cultural heritage, and library standards. They focus, in particular, on crosscutting issues, and have a key role both in raising awareness and coordination within the field, as well as in engaging with external partners and stakeholders. The Committees and their chairs are as follows:

 Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters

Chair: Melissa Levine

Advisory Committee on Cultural

Heritage

Chair: Helen Vincent

 Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression

Chair: Jonathan Hernandez-Perez

 Advisory Committee on Open Science and Scholarship

Chair: Fiona Bradley

Advisory Committee on Standards

Chair: Victoria Owen

Regional Offices

Four Regional Offices in South Africa, Singapore, and Argentina all work with their relevant committees, as well as providing wider support to IFLA membership.

AFRICA

Lindy Nhlapo Regional Manager University of South Africa, Pretoria

ASIA & OCEANIA

Lin Li Soh Regional Manager National Library Board, Singapore



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Isela María Mo Amavet Regional Manager Library of the National Congress, Argentina

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Eiman Saleh Alshamari Qatar Head of Young Adults' Library Qatar National Library

The Regional Offices started new mandates in 2024. IFLA is grateful to the National Library Board of Singapore, the Library of Congress of Argentina and the University of South Africa for their willingness to continue in these roles, and to Qatar National Library for opening our first ever regional office in the MENA region.

Language Centres

Three Language Centres whose role is to contribute to more effective communication within the relevant language communities (Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish) and with the IFLA bodies involved. These activities include the publication and/or translation of newsletters, key IFLA documents, guidelines, press releases, and Congress papers. Our Spanish Centre is co-located with our Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Library of Congress of Argentina.

ARABIC

Dina Youssef

Director IFLA Centre for Arabic Speaking Libraries (IFLA-CASL) Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Khaled Fouad

IFLA-CASL Coordinator Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

CHINESE

Zhang Xu

Director International Cooperation Division, National Library of China, Beijing, China

Hao Jinmin

Program Officer International Cooperation Division, National Library of China, Beijing, China

FRENCH (IN AFRICA)

Papa Arona Ndiaye

Director, Language Centre for French (in Africa) Central Library Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal

Mandiaye Ndiaye

Assistant, Language Centre for French (in Africa) Central Library Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal

Relations with Other Bodies

We have established good working relations with a variety of other bodies with similar interests, providing an opportunity for a regular exchange of information and views on issues of mutual concern. We have Formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Science Council (ISC) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).



In turn, we have strong ongoing connections with a number of non-governmental organisations operating in related fields, including the International Publishers Association (IPA), International Council on Archives (ICA), International Council on Museums (ICOM) and others. We are also a founding member of the Blue Shield and hold a permanent position on its International Board.

Honours and Awards

IFLA's Honours and Awards recognise those who have given significant service and made distinguished contributions to the profession.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

Renate Behrens

For her distinguished contribution to IFLA, for her extensive achievements, expertise, dedication and service, substantially impacting the area of international standards for cataloguing including resource description and access. Renate's work makes the world of information more accessible to all.

Professional Awards

IFLA's Professional Awards are presented by IFLA Committees. They recognise the contribution of an individual or an organisation to the professional activities of IFLA or to international library and information services sector more broadly in a specific professional area.

IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards

A dynamic Professional Unit has the greatest impact on IFLA's global work – engaging members, developing strong leadership and identity, delivering high-quality services with a measurable impact, and communicating activities within IFLA and beyond. The Professional Council launched the Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards (DUIAs) to recognise the Professional Units who have excelled in putting Dynamic Unit goals into practice.

Te Paea Paringatai, Chair of the Professional Council presented the following awards at the 2024 IFLA General Assembly:

Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Overall Achievement for a Unit that has excelled in all award categories

Libraries for Children and Young Adults (C&YA) Section

The IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults (C&YA) Section is a dynamic community dedicated to enhancing libraries for children and young adults. The C&YA Section have implemented innovative programs for those who work with our younger population such as the Instagram SDG Young Adult Book Club, their 3rd edition of the World Through Picture Books, Guidelines infographic, collaboration with IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People), and a panel in Italy.

They have created valued opportunities for volunteers to take on leadership roles and created positive conditions for volunteers to apply their talent to a range of projects and initiatives that have a tangible impact in communities worldwide. C&YA maintain clear, consistent, and open lines of communication



among committee members, registered members, and the broader children and young adults community. Their adept communication skills have been instrumental in driving collaboration, increasing visibility, and ultimately achieving their mission of enriching libraries for children and young adults.

"The C&YA Section has a strong standing committee who take on large initiatives together. The Section seeks to diversify the Standing Committee membership across geographic regions and collaborates with other IFLA sections and international associations. Our children and young adults in communities everywhere are our future, and it is wonderful to see the work of the Children and Young Adults Section recognised as the recipient of the overall Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for 2024. The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Quality and Impact of the Work is awarded this year to: IFLA Information Technology (IT) Section."

Russell Lynch, IFLA Division E Committee Chair

Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Quality and Impact of the Work Information and Technology (IT) Section

"With the increasing demand to understand AI and its role in service design, and future of work, the practical outputs of the IFLA Information Technology (IT) Section demonstrates relevance and currency for library professionals delivering better for library patrons of all ages. In collaboration with its sponsored AI and Big Data SIGs, the IT Section promptly addresses emerging and important matters, especially topics centred around artificial intelligence. With wide collaborations, their activities vary from events to projects and publications, and they make meaningful and impactful contributions, engaging professionals worldwide."

Athena Salaba, IFLA Division H Committee Chair

Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Member Engagement & Leadership Development: **Academic and Research Libraries (ARL) Section**

"It is no surprise that the ARL Section strives to engage with its members and provide practical opportunities with proven success to develop leaders. These are extensive activities and showcase the power of IFLA volunteers for a stronger collaborative Federation."

Ann Okerson, IFLA Division D Committee Chair

Treasurer's statement

[To be added after approval of the Annual Accounts 2024 at the General Assembly]

Our donors

IFLA gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution by these institutions and organisations that have enabled us to continue our strategic and regional activities and development projects in 2024.



- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands Host of IFLA HQ
- University of South Africa, Pretoria Host of IFLA Africa regional office
- National Library Board, Singapore Host of IFLA Asia and Oceania regional office
- Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación
 Host of IFLA Latin America and the Caribbean regional office
- Qatar National Library
 Host of IFLA Middle East and
 North Africa regional office
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt Host of IFLA Language Centre for Arabic
- National Library of China Host of IFLA Language Centre for Chinese

- Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal
 Host of IFLA Language Centre for French in Africa
- Stichting IFLA Global Libraries
- National Library of Australia
- National Library of Finland
- National Library Board Singapore
- National Library Service of Barbados
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Stichting IFLA Foundation
- Arcadia Fund
- Gold Leaf

Special thanks

IFLA is grateful to the Arcadia Fund for its ongoing support for the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme, in which IFLA plays a central role. This enables the creation of materials that support advocacy for copyright reform globally, as well as enabling increased capacity for organisation and action in Europe.

IFLA is grateful to the Gates Foundation (via Stichting IFLA Global Libraries) for its support in 2024, which enabled activities across all our work areas.

Information Futures Summit (IIFS) sponsors and partners

Platinum: OCLC

Gold: Zeutschel

Associate: EBSCO

Supporting:



- State Library of Queensland, Queensland Government
- Brisbane Australia
- Tourism & Events Queensland
- The Plough Inn
- Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
- Qantas