



International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions

Leslie Weir, IFLA President 2025-2027

Leslie Weir became President of IFLA on 22 August 2025, and will serve until August 2027. She previously served as President-elect from 2023 to 2025, and on IFLA's Professional Council from 2021 to 2023. Leslie served on the Management and Marketing Section from 2013 to 2021 as a member and as Secretary from 2017 to 2021. From 2017 to 2021, she was also a member of the IFLA PressReader International Marketing Award Jury and chaired the Jury in 2018 and 2019.



Leslie became the Librarian and Archivist of Canada on August 30, 2019. She is the first woman to be appointed to the position since the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada merged to form Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in 2004.

Under Leslie's leadership, LAC embarked on a major transition in 2020 to improve its services to Canadians and to better fulfill its mandate of acquiring, preserving, making accessible and sharing Canada's documentary heritage, specifically through significant service and technological shifts. To focus its efforts, LAC developed Vision 2030, a strategic plan unveiled in 2022 that is intended to foster reconciliation, reflection, analysis and planning to chart the institution's course over the next 10 years, and beyond.

Providing access, supporting democracy and working in partnerships endure as some of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada's main focuses as LAC sets out to remain a world leader among memory institutions. During her tenure, LAC has been able to plan for a future that reflects the collective ideas of the documentary heritage community, shaped by the needs of its users, the realities of the institution and the benefits of its experience.

In her role as Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Leslie has guided LAC to several significant and innovative achievements, including the opening of its Preservation Storage Facility in the National Capital Region in 2022. This state-of-the-art building is the first net-zero carbon archival preservation facility in the Americas and the largest automated archival facility in the world.

In addition to increasing its preservation capacity under Leslie's leadership, LAC is revolutionizing its services to the public with a second major infrastructure

project: Ādisōke, the joint facility that will be home to LAC and Ottawa Public Library in 2026. The result of an ongoing collaboration in the spirit of relationship building, decolonization and reconciliation, Ādisōke represents an unprecedented partnership between governments. It promises to be a cultural showplace for the country's heritage and a prime example of the federal government's commitment to building sustainable infrastructure.

Prior to her appointment, Leslie was University Librarian at the University of Ottawa from 2003 to 2018. She also held positions at the National Library of Canada, the Statistics Canada Library and the Côte Saint-Luc Public Library in Montréal.

Over the course of her career, Leslie has demonstrated vision, dedication and outstanding service by encouraging connections both within and outside the world of librarianship. She guided many transformative moments at the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and research libraries in Canada. Leslie is one of the founding architects of Scholars Portal, the state-of-the-art research infrastructure in Ontario universities that brings together information resources and services in support of research and learning. Leslie served as President of Canadiana.org, where she oversaw the introduction of the Heritage Project, in collaboration with LAC, to digitize and make openly accessible some 60 million heritage archival images. As well, she was President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries from 2007 to 2009 and the Ontario Library Association in 2017. Leslie also served as a member of the Board of the Association of Research Libraries from 2017 to 2019 and Vice Chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries from 2022 to 2025.

In recognition of her contributions, Leslie has been honoured with a number of awards, including the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship in 2015, Ron MacDonald Outstanding Service Award in 2016, Canadian Association of Research Libraries Distinguished Service Award in 2018 and the Ontario Council of University Libraries Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Leslie is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Forum of National Archivists.