



# STICHTING IFLA GLOBAL LIBRARIES | SIGL

2019 Report

# Stichting IFLA Global Libraries | SIGL Report for 2019

## Background

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

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

This report will focus on the activities undertaken by IFLA in support on the legacy initiatives throughout 2019.

## Overview of phases and implementation

IFLA's Legacy grant is shaped in three phases:

### 1. Discover and Launch (2017-2018)

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

### 2. Implement and Amplify (2018-2022)

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

### 3. Grow and Thrive (2023-2026)

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

# IFLA Legacy grant phases



## Current key projects (2019)

This report will reflect on the status of the following projects throughout 2019:

1. IFLA Strategy 2019-2024
2. Library Map of the World
3. Global vision – Ideas store
4. New IFLA website
5. DA2I
6. Governance Review

## SIGL overview

SIGL Board met three times during the year. The meetings were held in April, August, and December.

In 2019, having gained considerable experience from the work undertaken, IFLA and SIGL took this knowledge and moved IFLA from vision to strategy and then to implementation. This is in keeping with the three phases of the original agreement: Discover and Launch 2017-2018, Implement and Amplify 2019-2024 to Grow and Thrive 2024 - 2026.

In April 2019 SIGL members reviewed the resolution to add the position for Finance Director into the Joint-Account Agreement between IFLA and SIGL. In August 2019, SIGL members discussed the huge success of the IFLA World Library and Information Conference held in Athens, Greece. SIGL members and the Secretary General felt it was important to begin this term with a SIGL Board retreat and made an agenda including resource development, fundraising plan, IFLA Academy, Governance review. The final meeting in December 2019 was aimed at discussing and approving the budget and related activities for 2020.

Additionally, SIGL board members met for workshops regarding strategic developments.

## 1. IFLA Strategy 2019-2024

The implementation of the Legacy grant led directly to the elaboration of the new IFLA Strategy, as the existing strategy did not encompass the projects and activities envisioned within the Legacy grant. The launch of several projects carried out in Phase one significantly enhanced IFLA's action, creating a need for a new strategy: The Global Vision discussion highlights and opportunities; the Membership survey showing clearly what members value in IFLA as an organization; Library Map of the World collecting data and stories for better advocacy; and the DA2I report which demonstrates the contribution libraries make to achieving development agendas including the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In particular, by engaging tens of thousands of library and information workers from over 190 countries in a conversation about the strengths of, and opportunities for, the library field, the Vision both has provided energy and a guiding star for this Strategy.

On this basis, IFLA's Professional Units and Governing Board, working with the Headquarters Team, developed this document, drawing also on an assessment of IFLA's existing strengths, and its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It was approved by the IFLA Governing Board on 12 April 2019.

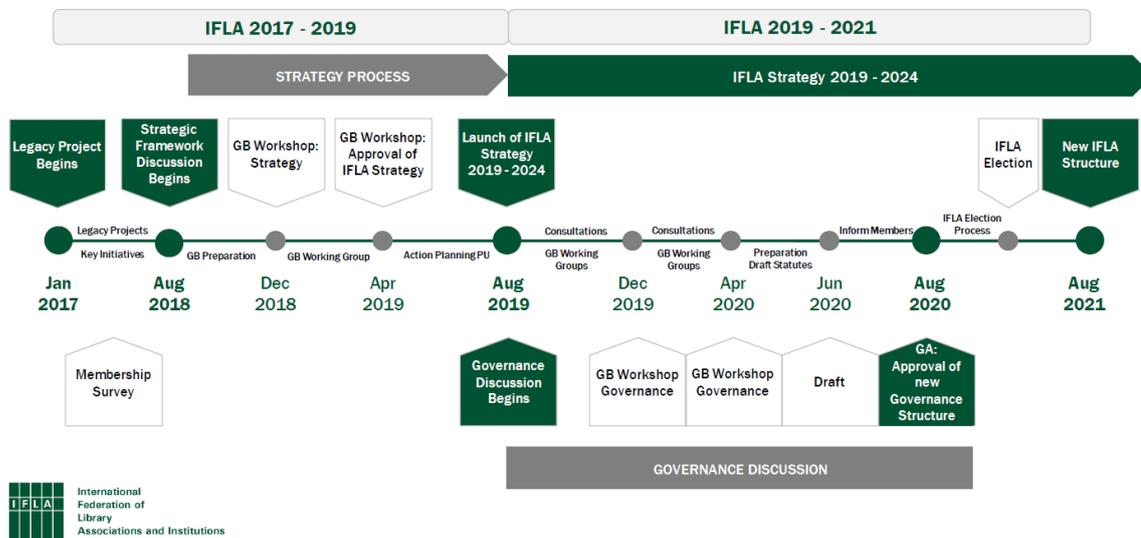
The IFLA Strategy 2019-2024 was officially launched in August 2019 during the IFLA WLIC in Athens, Greece, and represents a milestone in IFLA's journey from Vision to Strategy to Action.

Following the IFLA WLIC 2019, the document has been translated in all IFLA official languages and further activities have been taken towards a concept of gathering the global library field actions under one umbrella.

IFLA is now hard at work on implementation. All IFLA's Professional Units have updated their Action Plans using the Strategy as a guide, with a new energy and sense of coherence and collaboration across the Federation. We are also working to promote better alignment between work at the global, regional and national levels by helping national associations and others understand and draw on the Strategy in their own planning. To do this, two regional workshops with a focus on the new IFLA Strategy took place in 2019 – in Buenos Aires, Argentina in May, and Alexandria, Egypt in November. As follow-up to these workshops, participants are expected and encouraged to engage with their associations and others nationally in order to assess needs and develop or update strategies themselves. Through this, we intend to deliver on the commitment to strengthening national library fields.

Link to the document: <https://www.ifla.org/node/92542>

## IFLA Development Roadmap



### 2. Library Map of the World

2019 has been an outstanding year of engagement for the Library Map of the World (LMW). LMW Contributors from 44 countries and areas around the world engaged in the LMW activity for the first time in 2019: twice as many as in 2018. There are now 171 engaged countries and areas; this covers 69% of all countries and areas of the world. 154 out of 171 engaged countries are UN member states (our priority); thus, 80% of all UN Member States are engaged.

The LMW team is now working with 207 active Contributors: 53% of all contributing organisations are national library associations, 26% are national libraries, 9% other types of libraries, and 12% other institutions like consortiums or national level library agencies or authorities.

At the end of 2019, on the LMW website there were:

- 127 countries and areas with published data
- 13 countries with the full Country Profile
- 22 SDG stories from 16 countries

Throughout the year, the LMW team have provided guidance and resources to increase the capacity of countries to provide more and better data, to prepare full country profiles, and to improve SDG storytelling.

### 3. Global vision – Ideas store

The Ideas Store is the culmination of the two-year global project that IFLA undertook through its Global Vision discussion – a venture that has generated a united library field roadmap for the future. The Ideas Store is an IFLA service available here: <https://ideas.ifla.org/>.

Throughout 2019 preparations were carried out, in particular the analysis and curation of ideas, classification of ideas, and the set-up of the platform functionalities.

Following the successful completion of coordination and analysis work, the Ideas Store platform was officially launched during IFLA WLIC 2019.

It offers three main features: (1) Inform: This website is the home of the Ideas Store that showcases the result of the two-year Global Vision process. It aims to attract our audience, inspire, and intrigue people's imagination and curiosity. (2) Share: This space continuously allows individuals to share ideas with the global library field in 7 IFLA official languages. It is an ongoing call for contributions and inspiration pool for librarians worldwide. Link to submit: <https://ideas.ifa.org/idea-form/?page=1>. (3) Inspire: Starting August 2019, the platform showcases the ideas to inspire and engage librarians, boost their imagination, creativity, and support them in daily work, projects, and networking. The Ideas Store contains almost 2000 unique ideas, following a highly coordinated work and analysis. At this stage, the ideas are available in English only.

#### 4. New IFLA website

Based on the project agreement with Bitfactory for the Development stage, the website development was carried out in line with Scrum/Agile methodology during six Sprints (iterations of development cycles), each lasting approx. two weeks, between 1 April and 19 July. Additional and final Sprint was performed in October 2019.

The development team encountered many difficulties in the migration process, occasional low-quality coding, and lack of transparency in collaboration, which caused significant delays in the project schedule. Most of the issues have been resolved thanks to involvement of IFLA's Web and IT Officer.

Design of the homepage was reviewed and templates for several other pages were refined.

After 14 October, IFLA moved all the work to the in-house settings. New in-house development began with setting up the test server; configuring working methodology; transferring all remaining tasks from Jira to a new Development Trello board. The priorities we began immediately working on included the work on the new taxonomy based on several lists that are currently in use which are now being professionally refined and properly organized; CMS correct permissions / roles / units access (editor and translator level), search and filter plugin, rewriting menus, testing each feature on daily basis as it is ready. There has also been unfinished work from Bitfactory that we internally needed to finalize or completely recode.

By the end of 2019, the website was set for well-organized work and in 2020 that involve all IFLA HQ team members as well as Professional Units.

Additional work was carried out regarding the newsletter's technical and branding solutions as well as the current website content archiving (including a possibility of collaboration with Internet Archive digital library).

## **5. Development and Access to Information (DA2I)**

The second Development and Access to Information (DA2I) report was launched on 22 May 2019 at the Forum of Ministers of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It follows a first edition from 2017, itself launched in New York at the time of the High-Level Political Forum. It is the result of a partnership with the Technology and Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington, one of IFLA's Legacy Partners.

The series is the result of a commitment in the Lyon Declaration, and aims to give a more holistic overview of the state of access to information for development around the world, as well as evidence of how this access – and the libraries that guarantee it – supports progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In doing so, it aims to provide an academic back-up to our advocacy around access to information, as well as to bring together an evidence base for further analysis. A further benefit is the relations that it has allowed us to build up with a range of experts outside the library field.

IFLA has been continuously promoting DA2I report in its communications work, in particular using the thematic chapters as background for posts and articles. Chapters on education and on equality have proved particularly useful.

In this, we are increasing our focus on how to make our own advocacy and communications material useful for members. With the anniversary of the Public Library Manifesto, we produced an advocacy toolkit which was sent out to our association members ahead of time, as well as communications materials. We will also look to go beyond the brochure on how to use the Development and Access to Information report to make it more useful still in national and local-level advocacy.

## **6. Governance Review**

With the IFLA Strategy published in August 2019, the next phase of IFLA's Development Roadmap began – a review of our governance. The goal of this process is both to ensure that IFLA's structures are fit to deliver on the high level of ambition set out in the Strategy, and to reflect the spirit of inclusion and effectiveness seen throughout the Global Vision process.

Starting just days after the launch of the Strategy, the IFLA Governing Board chose to focus on three key areas – the Governing Board itself, the Professional Committee and Units, and the Strategic Committees (focusing on Standards, Cultural Heritage, Copyright and other Legal Matters, and Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression). In each, a working group made up of Governing Board members worked to identify priorities for change, seek views from key stakeholders and start to develop ideas for proposals. As the process has advanced, the need for proposals on a potential Regional Council has led to the emergence of a 'fourth pillar' of this work. A Steering Committee made up of the chairs of each working group is overseeing the process.

To inform this work, a survey of IFLA's Members helped to make it clear that the review needed to focus on improved regional representation, more varied opportunities for participation, especially for young leaders, more transparency, efficiency and collaboration, financial and organisational sustainability, and better support for volunteers.

By the end of 2019, in addition to multiple calls, interviews, and analysis of evidence, the Governing

Board held a two-day workshop at which it defined Principles for the review and made significant progress towards new proposals. The process continues into 2020, with a view to ensuring that any necessary changes to the IFLA Statutes can be made and agreed well in time to allow for elections in 2021 to take place in line with new structures. This, in particular, will include a proposed change to the Statutes to ensure that votes on any future amendments can be made by postal or electronic ballot, rather than only by those represented at IFLA General Assemblies.

## Staff and Office update

The following staff members were employed by SIGL in 2019:

Name	Job title	start date	end date
Mathew Rees	Communications Officer	2019-01-08	2019-07-31
Julia Zvobgo	Communications Officer	2019-07-22	
Kristine Paberza	Member Engagement Officer	2017-01-09	
Esther Doria	Project Coordinator Assistant	2017-01-01	
May Oostrom-Kwok	Communications Officer	2018-02-01	2019-12-31
Eshka Lake	Administrative Assistant - Data Processing and Analysis	2018-01-09	2019-12-08
Vesselina Vassileva	Administrative Assistant - Data Processing and Analysis	2018-01-09	

The following IFLA staff members were shared between IFLA and SIGL through the joint account agreement:

Name	Job title	% SIGL
Gerald Leitner	Secretary General	10%
Helen Mandl	Director Member Services / Deputy SG	50%
Renu Sardjoe Mishre	Finance Director	30%
Stephen Wyber	Manager, Policy and Advocacy	70%
Vesna Vuksan	Strategic Projects Manager	90%
Chris Ridings	Web and IT Officer	50%
Desiree Pronk	Accounting Assistant	30%