IFLA Science and Technology Libraries Section

Action Plan 2015-2017

Mission:

The Science and Technology Libraries Section brings together special libraries involved in collecting and providing access to information and data about the physical sciences and technology to users in science and technology departments of national libraries, university and polytechnic libraries, public libraries and corporate and government research libraries. A major focus of the Section will be on digital information for professional and scholarly communication. The Section collaborates with various national and international science and technology library associations.

The STL Section

- Focuses on the unique challenges experienced by libraries that provide information and services to students and faculty within the sciences and technology fields.
- Emphasizes the role of data and data management within science and technology disciplines and how librarians and libraries can collaborate to create data management solutions.
- Establishes and shares best practices within science and technology librarianship.
- Disseminates the results of relevant research.
- Highlights the critical need for library professionals within the area of science and technology librarianship, as well as the need for staying current in a rapidly evolving field.
- Maintains a working relationship with other IFLA sections especially with those sections that have either a science and technology interest or include science and technology within their overall purview (i.e., Academic and Research Libraries Section).

Goals to Advance IFLA Strategic Initiatives and Activities:

1. **Strategic Direction: Libraries in Society.**

1.1 **Highlight the critical role that access to science and technology information and research has in order to insure a better understanding of the possibilities (and limitations) that science and technology can play in improving humankind.**

   Activity 1.1.1: Collaborate with other IFLA Sections in communication the need for linkages between STEM disciplines with those in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

Activity 1.1.2: Reestablish the STL Newsletter.

Activity 1.1.3: Increase and create a diverse, representation of the world scientific and technical community in the membership of the Section and on the Section Committee.

2. **Strategic Direction: Information and Knowledge.**

2.1 **Promote science and technology libraries and librarians as collaborators in the research that will address the World's Grand Challenges.**

Activity 2.1.1: Execute the program for the IFLA 2016 Conference in Columbus, Ohio, that will focus on the issues that surround data management.

Activity 2.1.2: The program for a future IFLA conference will have as a theme the experience libraries and librarians have had in collaborating with researchers on addressing the World's Grand Challenges.

Activity 2.1.3: Promote the standardization of unique identifiers to cite researchers and publications through collaboration with ORCID, DataCite, and CrossRef.

Activity 2.1.4: Establish and promote relationship with the Research Data Alliance (RDA) to promote access and preservation of scientific and technical data.

Activity 2.1.5: Advance open access to increase access to scientific and technical information, for example the *Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development.*

Activity 2.1.6: Collaboration on future programs with the Knowledge Management Section.

3. **Strategic Direction: Cultural Heritage**

3.1 **Promote science and technology libraries and librarians as collaborators in the research that will address the World's Grand Challenges.**

Activity 3.1.1: Advocate for the development of archives and special collections in libraries that document the role of scientists and engineers.

Activity 3.1.2: Look for opportunities to highlight the collaboration of libraries with researchers to assist in integrating cultural heritage and history to address local and regional scientific and technical challenges associated with the world's grand challenges.

4.   Strategic Direction: Capacity Building.

4.1 Reestablish STL as a leader within the international library community and the importance of scientific and technology librarianship and libraries.

Activity 4.1.1: The STL Section will establish communication and relationships with other professional associations, within and outside librarianship, whose focus is science and technology to create a more coherent, united front to address the challenges facing science and technology libraries and librarians.

Activity 4.1.2: The STL Section will increase its membership along with repopulating the Section Committee, even though programs have been well attended and evaluated there has been a severe decline in membership and participation in the STL Section, this will be reversed.

Submitted by, James L. Mullins, Chair, Science and Technology Library Section (STL), IFLA.

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