Dear Colleagues,

Once again I am happy to be able to provide you with the latest update from the new Professional Council. The 2021-23 Professional Council held its October meeting via Zoom from 13:00-14:30 CEST, 28 October 2021. We were joined by the Regional Council Chair, Nthabiseng Kotsokoane who will be attending as liaison between the two Councils.

Priorities and goals of the 2021-23 Professional Council
A discussion of the draft document containing the priorities and goals for the 2021-23 Professional Council was held.

Objective 1: Enable and support the communication and collaboration between all stakeholders

Measures of success

- Complete and begin further implementation of the new IFLA structure for professional work. Measure of success. All open questions of the new structure for the professional area to be answered. Advice/recommendations given to the Governing Board with raised issues of interest and concern.
- Review and update any IFLA Standards, guidelines or Checklists, Infographics and further identified outputs
- Division mid-year survey yields positive feedback (an online survey of divisions should be held to measure or sense-check the activities deliver on improvement)

Objective 2: Develop the congress as a professional experience and international forum

Measures of success (to be aligned against an event ROI Framework)

- Tangible Values: Awareness of conference content to relevant/prospective audiences, Overall Participant satisfaction (Operational - IFLAHQ responsibility)
- Intangible Values: Divisions attract a talented pool of presenters and papers which reflect the diversity of IFLA, New collaborations between Divisions/Sections

Objective 3: Align work of the Professional Units with the IFLA strategy

Measures of success

- Action plans reflect the IFLA strategy
- Dashboard/Outcomes transparency that will be shared
- Increased number of sample case studies will be available on ways to value add to the work/outputs Sections are producing.
  - e.g., a Webinar with a learning package around the topic, guidelines with more information on how to implement or use for advocacy Add-value to Section programs and initiative
- Application of a whole-unit approach in the implementation of action plans
Working groups and their members were established for existing, prioritized, Action Items:

- Finalise procedures for co-opting members and mentors
- Clarify the speaker grant application process
- WLIC 2022 Sub Committee and timeline
- Section and SIG Reviews/Networks and Working Groups.

Activity: Finalise procedures for co-opting members and mentors. SIGs, Networks and Working Groups
Subcommittee members: Patrick Danowski (Lead), Camille Callison, Jan Richards, Leslie Weir, Adjoa Boateng

Activity: Clarify the speaker grant application process
Subcommittee members: Anoja Fernando, Te Paea Paringatai and PSO

Activity: WLIC 2022 Sub Committee
Subcommittee members: Adjoa Boateng, Jan Richards, Dilara Begum, Camille Callison, Helen Chan, Patrick Danowski, Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, Leslie Weir

Alignment of the Professional Structure work to the 2019-24 IFLA Strategy
A report on 2020-2021 Annual Reports was provided. Division Chairs will provide feedback for 2021-2022 reporting measurements to the Professional Support Officer for inclusion in the 2021-22 Annual Report Form.

An overview of the results of the Officer survey on training requirements was provided. Division Chairs discussed their role in training through support, coaching, guidance and direct skills support to the Officers in their Division, based on the needs of their respective Committees. IFLA HQ will provide a range of training opportunities over coming months. Specific training to assist committee leaders and to improve engagement among standing committee members was highlighted. Division Chairs with extensive past experience will be asked to contribute.

The Professional Council resolved to give permission to hold an exploratory meeting as the next step concerning the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group within IFLA. The meeting should be widely publicised within IFLA.

The School Libraries Manifesto will move forward to the Governing Board at their November meeting, for approval to seek comment and possible continued endorsement by UNESCO. The proposal for a new title in the IFLA Publications Series: *LIS Education in research methods: International perspectives* was approved.

Looking forward (Next Steps)
I have raised some questions, as requested by Division Chairs, at the recent GB meeting held on 2nd November. However, extensive discussions during the Governing Board (GB) meeting required a revision of the agenda. I have also sent these questions in writing to the GB and will seek responses to provide to the Chairs to feedback promptly.
Finally, I would like to congratulate and say thank you to Jan Richards: Division E Chair, who is now Professional Council Vice Chair. If it is not too early I wish you each the very best for the upcoming holiday season and hope that this year we are all able to spend it with close ones. Thank you each for your time, expertise and commitment.

The next PC Meeting will be held in December.

Kind Regards,
Adjoa
Chair, IFLA Professional Council