



THE GLOBAL VISION REPORT SUMMARY

Global Vision Report Summary

Top 10 Highlights and Opportunities



190	469,152	ALL
		
UN Member States on 7 continents	years of library experience	generations and library types
9,291	185	21,772
		
workshop participants	workshops	online votes

 IFLA
Global Vision



KEY FINDING

We are united globally in our goals and values

The most important finding is that across all regions, library types, and lengths of library experience, we share a deep commitment to the enduring value and role of libraries.

We must connect global and local actions effectively

Acknowledging regional characteristics and requirements will be essential in our future efforts to unite the library field in addressing common challenges.



10 HIGHLIGHTS

1. **We are dedicated to equal and free access to information and knowledge**

Across the library field, no value was more highly rated than a commitment to equal and free access to information and knowledge.

2. **We remain deeply committed to supporting literacy, learning and reading**

Our traditional areas of strength – supporting learning, literacy, and reading – are universally recognised as central to the achievement of libraries' missions.

3. **We are focused on serving our communities**

Regardless of how we define community, we share a deep commitment to meeting users' needs. We value diversity, inclusion and the importance of providing a non-commercial public space.

4. **We embrace digital innovation**

The field strongly agrees on the essential role of digital innovations in realising libraries' potential to enrich society, regardless of how extensively they already can and do use technology.

10 OPPORTUNITIES

1. **We must be champions of intellectual freedom**

Equal and free access to information and knowledge depends on freedom of expression. Libraries' role in ensuring this needs to be better understood.

2. **We must update our traditional roles in the digital age**

To support learning, literacy and reading meaningfully in a digital age, libraries must adapt continuously. Services, collections and practices must develop to meet changing user expectations.

3. **We need to understand community needs better and design services for impact**

Expanding library outreach will help link with local partners, engage new and underserved sections of our communities, and have a measurable impact on peoples' lives

4. **We must keep up with ongoing technological changes**

Ensuring all libraries have the right tools, infrastructure, funding, and skills to seize the opportunities provided by digital innovations is a pressing need.



10 HIGHLIGHTS

5. **We have leaders who see the need for strong advocacy**

Those in a leadership position consistently identify the need to advocate with leaders, influencers and the wider community as a high priority.

6. **We see funding as one of our biggest challenges**

Securing resources and allocating them towards impact is an important part of providing services that effectively respond to community needs.

7. **We see the need to build collaboration and partnerships**

We recognise working collaboratively amongst ourselves, and in partnership with those outside, as essential for creating a strong, united library field.

10 OPPORTUNITIES

5. **We need more and better advocates at all levels**

Everyone in the field needs a deeper understanding of the need for advocacy to improve perceptions and ultimately achieve our goals. Every librarian an advocate!

6. **We need to ensure stakeholders understand our value and impact**

Making a stronger case for the ability of libraries to provide value will build recognition and support among decision-makers.

7. **We need to develop a spirit of collaboration**

Understanding and addressing actual and perceived barriers to collaboration will help end a tendency to work in isolation and realise the vision of a united library field.



10 HIGHLIGHTS

8. **We want to be less bureaucratic, inflexible and resistant to change**

The field shares a desire to be more proactive in its approach, open to innovation and ready to let go of out-dated or restrictive practices

9. **We are the guardians of the memory of the world**

Libraries are the primary repositories of the world's documentary heritage, and the ideas and creativity they contain. We are uniquely good at preserving and organising knowledge for future generations.

10. **Our young professionals are deeply committed and eager to lead**

The high engagement in this process of those who are newer to the field is evidence of a desire to get involved in shaping the library field of the future.

10 OPPORTUNITIES

8. **We need to challenge current structures and behaviours**

Overcoming our passive mindset and embracing innovation and change will allow us to tackle the challenges facing the library field.

9. **We need to maximise access to the world's documentary heritage**

As a united field we must apply innovative practices and tools, share expertise and resources, and advocate for solutions to legal and funding challenges, to give access to the works we safeguard.

10. **We must give young professionals effective opportunities to learn, develop and lead**

The field's capacity to develop and connect young library professionals has to keep up with changing needs and allow them to become the leaders of the future.

Our vision, Our future:

A strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies