

**Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and of individuals are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society. Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information.**

# **25 Years IFLA - UNESCO Public Library Manifesto**

**The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.**

**This Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.**

**UNESCO therefore encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries.**

**29 November 1994**

**#PublicLibraryManifesto**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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