



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Trends, issues, and innovations in public libraries: global best practices

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New Delhi, 7 March 2016





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Some global to local trends and influences

- IPLC 2015 recommendations – foundation document
- Digital information environment – opportunities and challenges [for example IFLA Trend Report]
- Re-skilling the profession [staff shortages?]
- Re-imagining library services
- Library within the community / meeting community needs
- Linking library services goals with local/government goals



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- Support systems – IFLA networking, standards / guidelines, resources [IFLA / UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (IPLC 2015 recommendations)]
- Public Library legislation

IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto on Public Libraries

“The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local governments. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision, literacy and education. To ensure nationwide library coordination and cooperation, legislation and strategic plans must also define and promote a national library network based on agreed standards of service.”

Is there a need for a Library Act?

- not as long as there is **enough money** for development, for adjusting to new technology and for the acquisition of new resources of information
- not as long as **the value** of public libraries **is fully recognized** by local decision-makers and state authorities
- not as long as the **economical prospects** are **good**
- not as long as users are offered the **same quality level** of library services regardless of domicile or economic status

Library legislation

- protects libraries against losing what they **need to meet their responsibilities**
- helps defining the **changing purposes** of public libraries
- assists in **saving library services** in difficult times
- helps ensuring **equal services** across a country
- helps keeping library services at a level at which the democratic principle of **free access to information** and **freedom of expression** can still be guaranteed - for the sake of all users