

International Relations Committee Report to Council  
July 1, 2014  
Submitted by Luis Herrera, Chair

Committee Members: Chair Luis Herrera, Nancy M. Bolt, Sharon Bostick, Yolanda Cuesta, Lesley Farmer, Loida Garcia-Febo, Allene Hayes, Esmeralda Kale, Bradley Schaffner, Carla Southers, Joan Weeks, Jennifer Younger, Laura DeLancey (intern), Cathy Zeljak (intern), Michael P. Dowling (staff liaison).

International Attendees at Annual

Las Vegas proved to be an attraction for librarians outside the United States as well. Close to 600 international librarians from 78 countries made it to Vegas. In addition to librarians from Canada, there were large delegations from a number of countries, including China, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, and Nigeria. ALA was also pleased to receive three delegations from Korea, including Korean Library Association (KLA) President Hee-Yoon Yoon. The KLA delegation visit was the result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed at the end of last year. President-elect Courtney Young will be participating in the Korean Library Association this fall.

The IRC would like to thank the International Relations Round Table for all its members' efforts to welcome and assist international attendees. International attendees were provided with an Orientation on Friday, and feted at the International Reception last night. In between, international attendees could find a place to relax and recharge at the International Lounge.

This year's conference again included a variety of international-focused programs. The International Papers Sessions provided information on use of eBooks around the world. There were also country-focused programs from Singapore (Community Engagement) and China (Multibranch Services Models).

IFLA Report

The IRC welcomed IFLA President-elect Donna Scheeder, who provided the Committee with an update on IFLA activities. IFLA is pleased with how the [Trends Report](#) has been received since its release last August in Singapore. The Report identifies five trends shaping the information society, spanning access to education, privacy, civic engagement and transformation:

- Technologies will both expand and limit who has access to information.
- Online Education will democratize and disrupt global learning.
- The boundaries of privacy and data protection will be redefined.
- Hyper-connected societies will listen to and empower new voices and groups.
- The global information environment will be transformed by new technologies.

The Report has been translated into seven languages already, and a number of programs and workshops have been held in various countries in regions to discuss how libraries will respond to the Report.

IFLA continues to be actively engaged to move forward a treaty for exemptions for libraries at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). IFLA also continues its involvement to the follow-up meetings on the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS.)

Membership in IFLA is up slightly over last year.

The 81st *IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)* will take place in Lyon, France, August 16-22, 2014. In Lyon, IFLA will release the *Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development*. More information on the Declaration and an action item for Council follows at the end of this report.

### IFLA Congress Coming to Columbus in 2016

IFLA will be coming back to the United States in August 2016. After a bid and review process, the IFLA Governing Board has selected Columbus, Ohio, to host the 82nd *IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)*.

ALA will be part of the U.S. National Committee working with other U.S.-based associations and the local Columbus library community on the effort to make the conference a memorable one for international delegates, as well as U.S. delegates. The IRC hopes many U.S. librarians will take advantage of having the IFLA WLIC on home ground to attend their first international conference. The IRC will provide updates on the progress of the Congress.

### Library Copyright Alliance

Carrie Russell provided a report to IRC on LCA's coordinated efforts with IFLA at WIPO on the [library exceptions and limitations treaty](#) (June 30-July 5, 2014). The LCA has worked with the U.S. delegation to WIPO, providing them with library principles and details on how exceptions are used in the U.S., as well as an analysis of fair use as an example of a flexible exception. The U.S. delegation has read most of these documents into the record as interventions. LCA believes that persuading WIPO to endorse a hard treaty is very ambitious. Instead, other legal instruments may be more likely, such as a soft treaty or declaration. Many WIPO nation members, particularly developing nations, however, do support the treaty.

### ALA International Strategic Plan

The Committee spent a considerable amount of time at this conference discussing ALA's current International Strategic Plan, and has created a joint task force with the IRRT to begin focusing on the new strategic areas of Advocacy, Information Policy, and Professional Development.

### SIBF-ALA Library Conference

The International Relations Office is continuing its organization of the first two-day SIBF-ALA Library Conference, which will take place in November in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) as part of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF). ALA expects 200 librarians, including many ALA members in the region, to attend the conference. There will be a number of U.S. librarians as presenters for the conference, but also librarians from the region.

## Partnering with Germany 2016-2019

Upon the request of the Europe Committee, the IRC endorsed the interest from Germany to have the U.S. become its partner country beginning in 2016 at their national congress. ALA and BID (the umbrella organization of library associations in Germany) will provide a platform at their respective conferences to provide information and knowledge sharing between the two library communities. This is very timely with the signing of a large contract between ALA and the National Library of Germany (and other entities) to spread RDA throughout libraries in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

## International Interest in Declaration for the Right to Libraries

The IRC would like to thank President Barbara Stripling for her commitment to spread the word about the value of libraries through the *Declaration for the Right to Libraries* during her visits to library conferences in Mexico and Latvia this spring. The Declaration has proven very popular abroad, and has been translated into numerous languages.

## ALA Becoming a Signatory to IFLA's Lyon Declaration

IFLA is asking for library associations and other organizations to become signatories to the *Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development*.

The Lyon Declaration is an advocacy document that will be used to positively influence the content of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. It has been drafted by IFLA and a number of strategic partners in the library and development communities.

The Declaration states clearly that access to information supports development by empowering people to:

- Exercise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; learn and apply new skills.
- Make decisions and participate in an active and engaged civil society.
- Create community-based solutions to development challenges.
- Ensure accountability, transparency, good governance, and empowerment.
- Measure progress on public and private commitments on sustainable development.

The Declaration calls upon United Nations Member States to make an international commitment through the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.

The Declaration will be launched at the *IFLA World Library and Information Congress* in Lyon, France, August 16-22, 2014. Organizations who share the vision expressed are invited to sign the Declaration between May 2014 and August 2015.

So far, over 50 library associations and organizations around the world have become signatories, including the Association of Research Libraries and library associations in France, Estonia, Spain, Southeast Asia, Russia, Latvia, and Finland. Many national libraries have also already become signatories. And non-governmental organizations that are international or regional based have also signed on.

OITP's Advisory Committee has endorsed ALA becoming a signatory.

The IRC voted in favor of ALA becoming a signatory, as the Declaration is in keeping with the principles of the *Library Bill of Rights*.

**[Action Item]**

**Resolved that the Council of the American Library Association directs that ALA become a signatory to the *Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development*.**

## Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development

**The Lyon Declaration of August 2014 was written in English. The wording of the English version shall prevail.**

*The United Nations is negotiating a new development agenda to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The agenda will guide all countries on approaches to improving people's lives, and outline a new set of goals to be reached during the period 2016-2030.*

*We, the undersigned, believe that increasing access to information and knowledge across society, assisted by the availability of information and communications technologies (ICTs), supports sustainable development and improves people's lives.*

*We therefore call upon the Member States of the United Nations to make an international commitment to use the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.*

### Principles

Sustainable development seeks to ensure the long-term socio-economic prosperity and well-being of people everywhere. The ability of governments, parliamentarians, local authorities, local communities, civil society, the private sector and individuals to make informed decisions is essential to achieving it.

In this context, a right to information would be transformational. Access to information supports development by empowering people, especially marginalised people and those living in poverty, to:

- Exercise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- Be economically active, productive and innovative.
- Learn and apply new skills.
- Enrich cultural identity and expression.
- Take part in decision-making and participate in an active and engaged civil society.
- Create community-based solutions to development challenges.
- Ensure accountability, transparency, good governance, participation and empowerment.
- Measure progress on public and private commitments on sustainable development.

### Declaration

In accordance with the findings of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the post-2015 consultations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Open Working Group Focus Area Report, all of which identified the crucial role of access to information in supporting development, we, the undersigned, recognise that:

1. Poverty is multidimensional, and progress in eradicating poverty is linked to ensuring sustainable development across a variety of areas.
2. Sustainable development must take place in a human-rights based framework, where:
  - a) Inequality is reduced by the empowerment, education and inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth.

- b) Gender equality, along with full social, economic and political engagement, can be significantly enhanced by empowering women and girls through equitable access to education.
  - c) Dignity and autonomy can be strengthened by ensuring access to employment and decent jobs for all.
  - d) Equitable access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, and privacy are promoted, protected and respected as being central to an individual's independence.
  - e) Public participation of all is ensured to allow them to take ownership of change needed to improve their lives.
3. Increased access to information and knowledge, underpinned by universal literacy, is an essential pillar of sustainable development. Greater availability of quality information and data and the involvement of communities in its creation will provide a fuller, more transparent allocation of resources.
4. Information intermediaries such as libraries, archives, civil society organisations (CSOs), community leaders and the media have the skills and resources to help governments, institutions and individuals communicate, organize, structure and understand data that is critical to development. They can do this by:
- a) Providing information on basic rights and entitlements, public services, environment, health, education, work opportunities, and public expenditure that supports local communities and people to guide their own development.
  - b) Identifying and focusing attention on relevant and pressing needs and problems within a population.
  - c) Connecting stakeholders across regional, cultural and other barriers to facilitate communication and the exchange of development solutions that could be scaled for greater impact.
  - d) Preserving and ensuring ongoing access to cultural heritage, government records and information by the public, through the stewardship of national libraries and archives and other public heritage institutions.
  - e) Providing public forums and space for wider civil society participation and engagement in decision-making.
  - f) Offering training and skills to help people access and understand the information and services most helpful to them.
5. Improved ICT infrastructure can be used to expand communications, speed up the delivery of services and provide access to crucial information particularly in remote communities. Libraries and other information intermediaries can use ICTs to bridge the gap between national policy and local implementation to ensure that the benefits of development reach all communities.
6. **We, the undersigned, therefore call on Member States of the United Nations to acknowledge that access to information, and the skills to use it effectively, are required for sustainable development, and ensure that this is recognised in the post-2015 development agenda by:**
- a) Acknowledging the public's right to access information and data, while respecting the right to individual privacy.

- b) Recognising the important role of local authorities, information intermediaries and infrastructure such as ICTs and an open Internet as a means of implementation.
- c) Adopting policy, standards and legislation to ensure the continued funding, integrity, preservation and provision of information by governments, and access by people.
- d) Developing targets and indicators that enable measurement of the impact of access to information and data and reporting on progress during each year of the goals in a Development and Access to Information (DA2I) report.

## What is the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development?

The Lyon Declaration is an advocacy document that will be used to positively influence the content of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. It was drafted by IFLA and a number of strategic partners in the library and development communities between January and May 2014.

The Declaration states clearly that access to information supports development by empowering people to:

- Exercise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- Learn and apply new skills
- Make decisions and participate in an active and engaged civil society
- Create community-based solutions to development challenges
- Ensure accountability, transparency, good governance, and empowerment
- Measure progress on public and private commitments on sustainable development.

The Declaration calls upon United Nations Member States to make an international commitment through the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.

The Declaration will be launched at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Lyon, France, 15-22 August 2014. Organisations who share the vision expressed will be invited to sign the Declaration between May 2014 and August 2015.

Read the [Declaration](#).

## Why should I sign the Lyon Declaration?

You should sign the Lyon Declaration:

- if your institution or organisation believes that increasing access to information and knowledge across society supports sustainable development and improves peoples' lives.
- if you believe that (ICTs) have a crucial role to play in increasing people's access to information and development prospects.
- if you want to see the United Nations create a development policy framework that recognises this, and places access to information at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.
- if your organisation supports the role of libraries and other information intermediaries in supporting development.



## **How do I sign the Lyon Declaration?**

Contact IFLA's Policy and Projects Officer, [Julia Brungs](#) by **1 August 2014** including the full name of your organisation, name of your authorized signatory who can represent the organisation, and logo. Please indicate whether you grant IFLA permission to publish the name of your organisation on [this website](#).

## **What happens next?**

The Lyon Declaration will form the basis of advocacy between the period September 2014 and September 2015. IFLA, in partnership with signatories, will organise events and activities to raise the profile of the Declaration at national, regional and international levels, with the intention to ensure that access to information is recognised in the framework to be launched by the United Nations at the end of 2015.

We strongly encourage you to utilise the Lyon Declaration for your own advocacy and help to make a difference to people worldwide by enabling access to information.

**Current Signatories to the  
*Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development***

1. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
2. Access
3. Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC)
4. Andaluza de Bibliotecarios
5. Article 19
6. Association des Professionnels Bibliothécaires Archivistes et Documentalistes (APROBAD)
7. Association for Progressive Communications
8. Association of Danish Public Library Managers
9. Association of librarians of France (ABF)
10. Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
11. Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR)
12. Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae ry (BMF)
13. Bibliothèques Sans Frontières / Libraries Without Borders
14. Cambodian Center for Human Rights
15. Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
16. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
17. Conference of SE Asia Librarians (CONSAL)
18. Consejo Nacional para Asuntos Bibliotecarios de las Instituciones de Educación Superior A.C. (CONPAB-IES)
19. Development Initiatives
20. Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)
21. Estonian Librarians Association
22. European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
23. Fed. Española de Soc. de Archivística Biblioteconomía Documentación y Museística (FESABID)
24. Finnish Library Association
25. FOBID Netherlands Library Forum
26. Forum of Argentine Journalism
27. Foundation for Press Freedom - FLIP
28. Freedom Forum
29. Global Integrity
30. Global Partners Digital
31. INDEX MURCIA
32. Index on Censorship
33. Institute for the Studies on Free Flow of Information (Indonesia)
34. International Federation of Journalists Asia Pacific
35. International Records Management Trust
36. Internet Democracy Project
37. kiwanja.net
38. Library & Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA)
39. Media Watch Bangladesh
40. Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA)  Australia

41. Narva Central Library
42. National Library of Israel
43. National Library of Latvia
44. National Library of Luxembourg
45. National Library of Montenegro "Djurdje Crnojevic"
46. National Library of Scotland
47. National Library of Spain
48. National Library of the Philippines
49. Observatoria Latinoamericano Para La Libertad De Expresion (OLA)
50. ONG Derechos Digitales
51. Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF)
52. Partnerships in Health Information (PHI)
53. Public Association "Journalists"
54. Public Knowledge
55. Russian Library Association
56. Swedish Library Association
57. Swiss National Library
58. Worldpulse